



In vivo CRISPR base editing of ANGPTL3 in a non-human primate model of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia

Verve Company Update

November 9, 2021



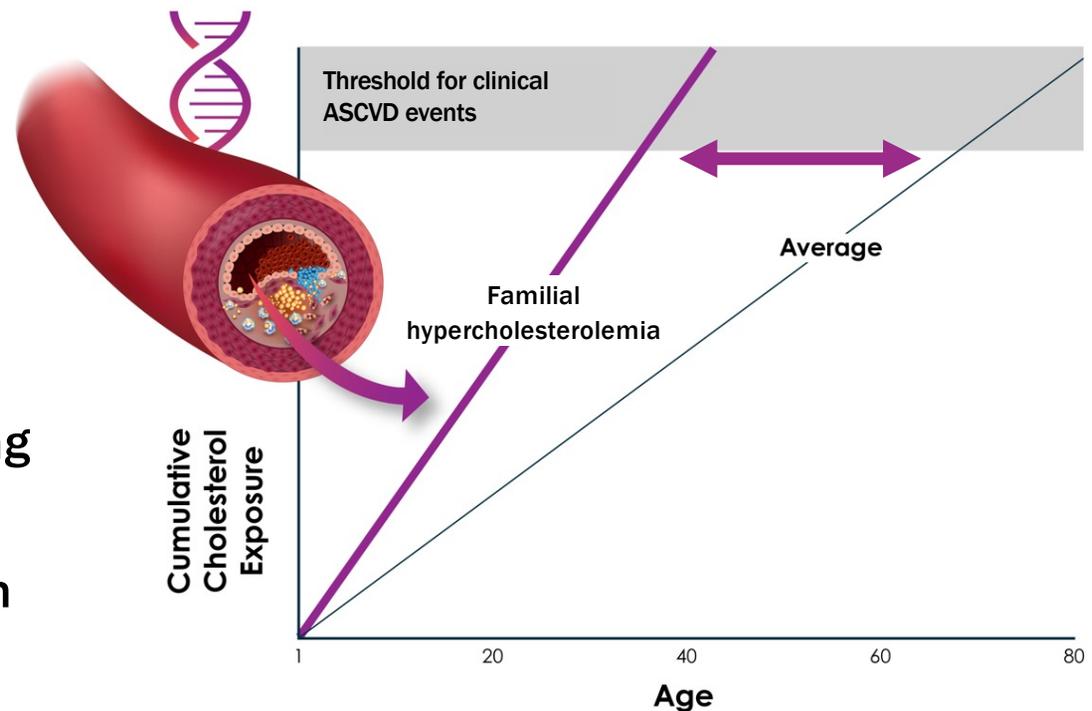
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Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH): a life-threatening genetic disease with very high cumulative exposure to LDL-C



- Usually caused by mutations in both copies of the LDLR gene, ~ **1,300 people** in U.S.
- Lack of LDLR on hepatocytes leads to poor clearance of LDL-C from the blood
- LDL-C levels **>500 mg/dL** starting early in life
- Myocardial infarction common in 20s and 30s



Adapted from Horton et al. J Lipid Res., 2009

Inactivation of ANGPTL3 gene is a compelling target for the treatment of HoFH: human genetics and human pharmacology



validated by human genetics

Heterozygous deficiency:
Low lipids in population
Resistant to heart attack

Human knockout:
Triglycerides: **19 mg/dL**
LDL-C: **37 mg/dL**

Rare Gene Mutations Inspire New Heart Drugs

By Gina Kolata

May 24, 2017

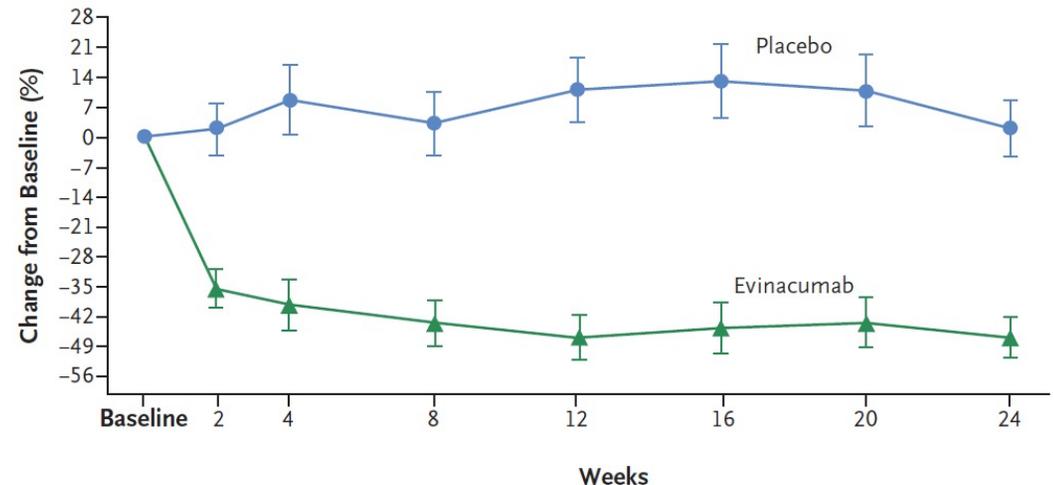
Anna Feurer learned she had unusually **low triglyceride levels** after having bloodwork at a corporate health fair. The discovery prompted researchers to recruit her and her family for a research study of their genetic makeup.



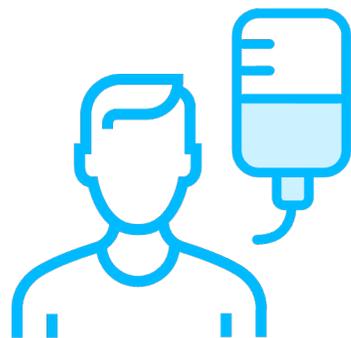
Credit: Jess T. Dugan for The New York Times

validated by human pharmacology

- ANGPTL3 inhibition with evinacumab lowered LDL-C by about 47% in a pivotal phase 3 trial in patients with HoFH
- Evinacumab now approved for HoFH



At Verve, we are developing...



**a single-course
gene editing treatment
that would...**

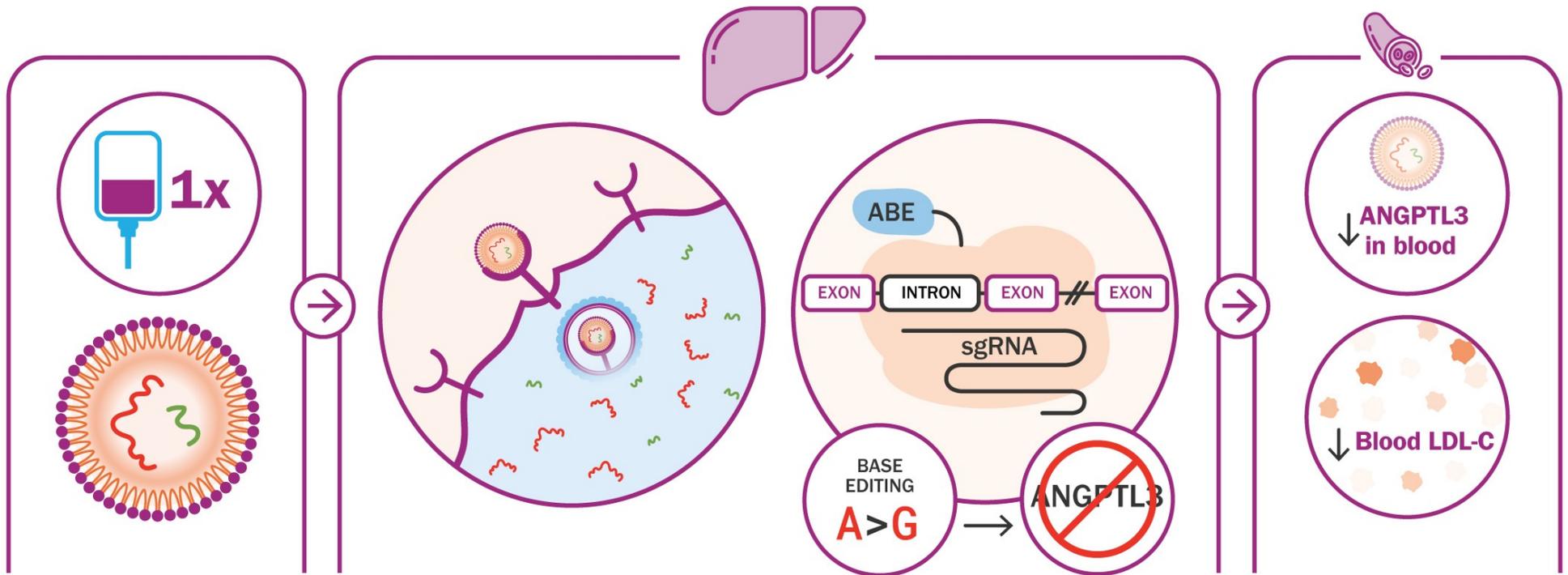


**... durably and safely
lowered blood LDL cholesterol...**



to treat FH and ASCVD

Our approach: in vivo liver base editing to permanently turn off disease-causing ANGPTL3 gene in the liver



mRNA gRNA

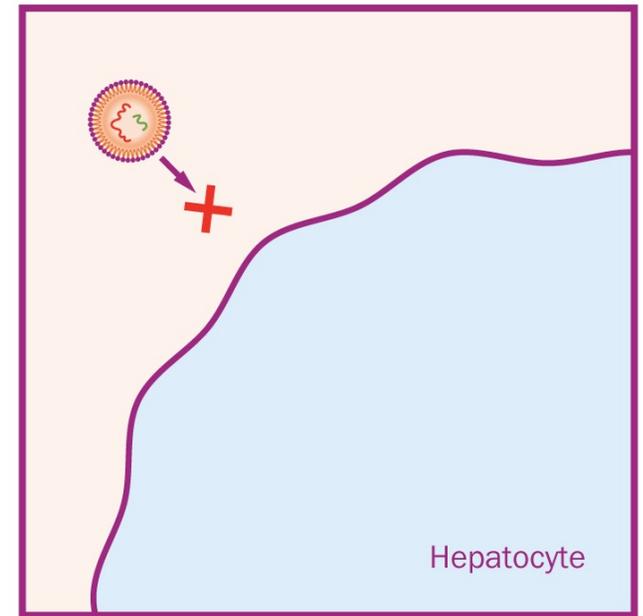
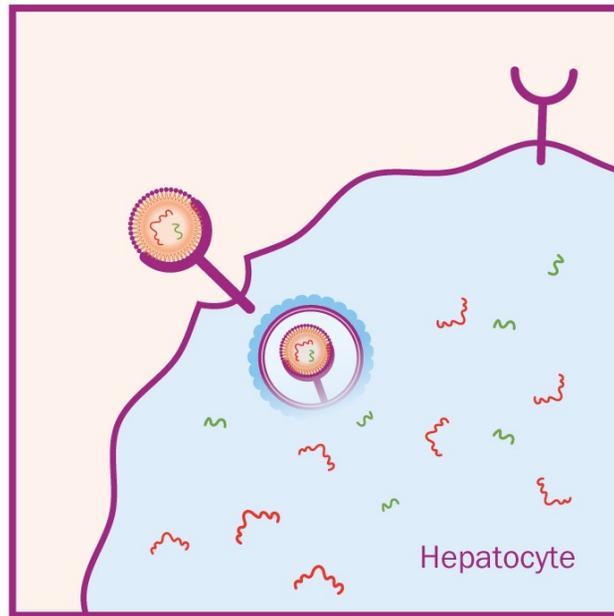
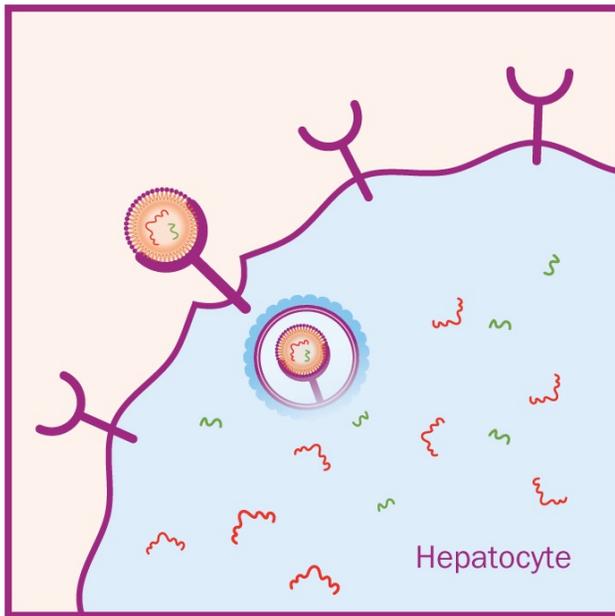
Challenge: HoFH patients completely lack LDL Receptor; in this setting, delivery with standard LNPs doesn't work



Normal liver

Heterozygous FH (HeFH)

Homozygous FH (HoFH)



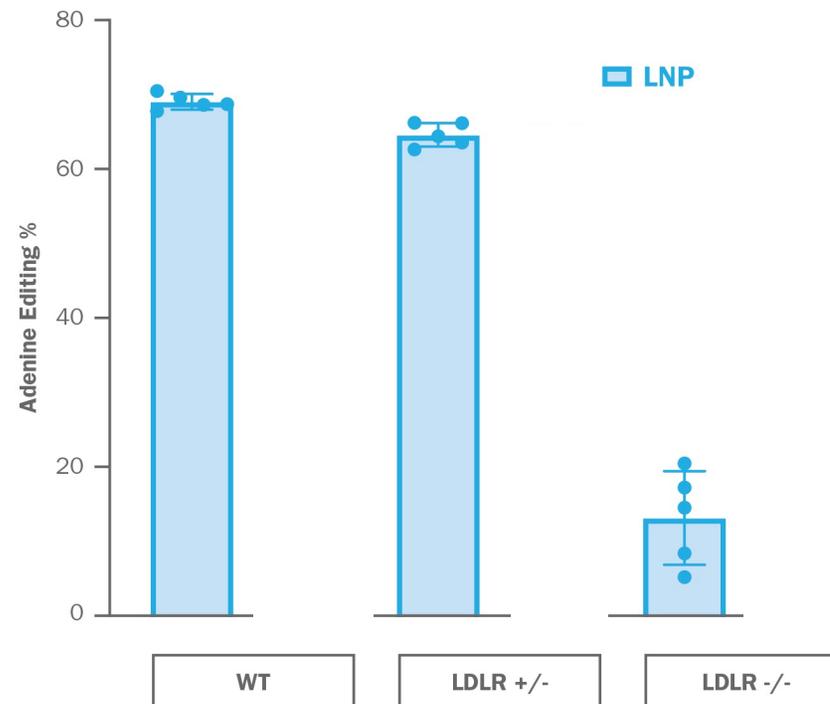
Y LDL Receptor

⊙ Lipid nanoparticle (LNP)

~ mRNA

~ gRNA

In mouse models of FH, standard LNPs deliver fine to HeFH mice but fail to deliver to HoFH (*Ldlr* $-/-$) mice

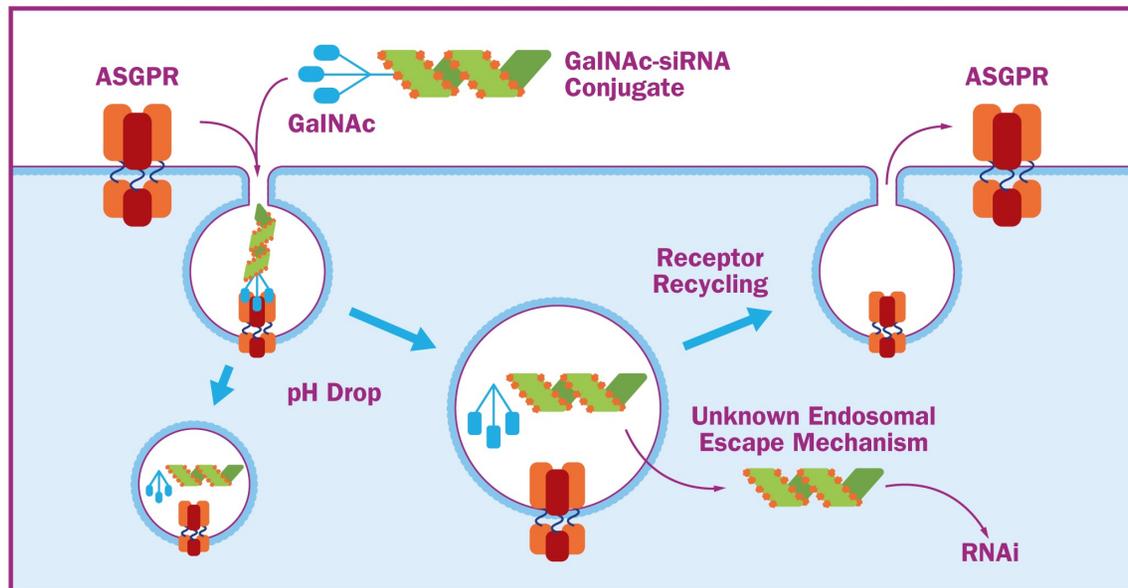


Goal: an LNP delivery system that would enable ANGPTL3 editing in both patients with HeFH and HoFH



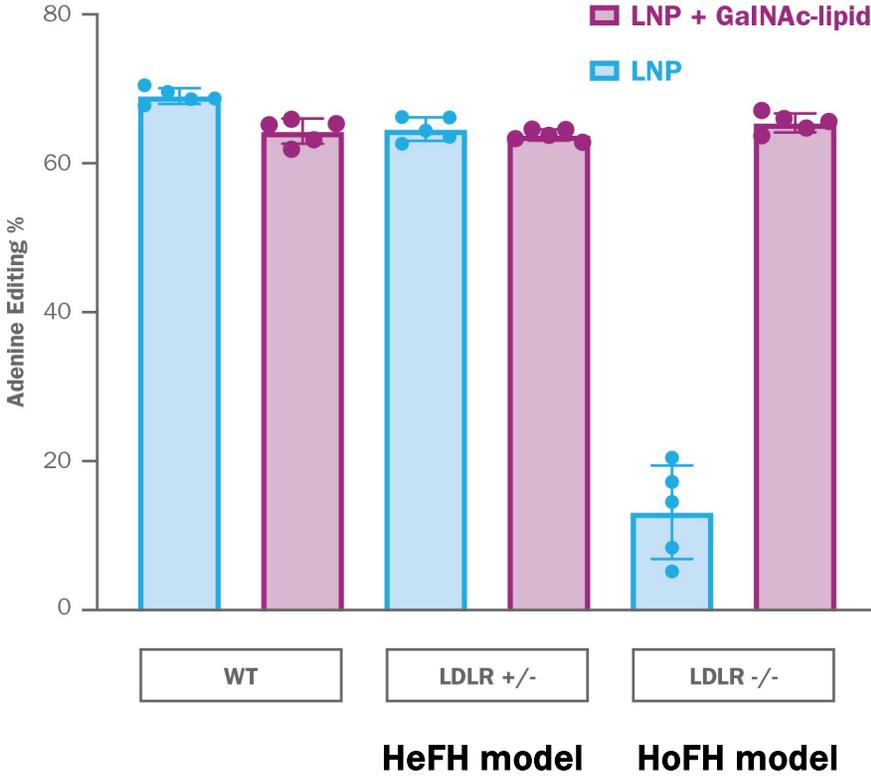
PROGRAM	INITIAL INDICATION	DEVELOPMENT STATUS			
		Research/ Lead optimization	IND-Enabling	Clinical	Development Milestones
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C)					
VERVE-101 ABE-PCSK9	Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IND Submission (2022) • Phase 1 Initiation (2022)
LDL-C and triglyceride-rich lipoprotein (TRL)					
ANGPTL3	Familial hypercholesterolemia				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate selection (2022) • Begin IND-enabling studies (2022)

Liver-specific ASGPR is an alternative receptor for entry into hepatocytes using a GalNAc ligand



Adapted from Springer and Dowdy, *Nucleic Acid Therapeutics* 2018, 28, 109

Verve solution: ASGPR targeting proprietary GalNAc ligand that, when added to LNP, enables liver delivery in HoFH mouse model



Editing data are from analyses of liver necropsy specimens at 1 week



**Will GalNAc-LNP
efficacy translate to
larger animal models
such as NHP?**

Two proprietary GalNAc-LNPs created at Verve

LNP 1

Ionizable lipid 1 + GalNAc-lipid LNP

LNP 2

Ionizable lipid 2 + GalNAc-lipid LNP

Drug development problem: need for an NHP model of HoFH

Translation of LNP delivery from mouse to human has historically been poor

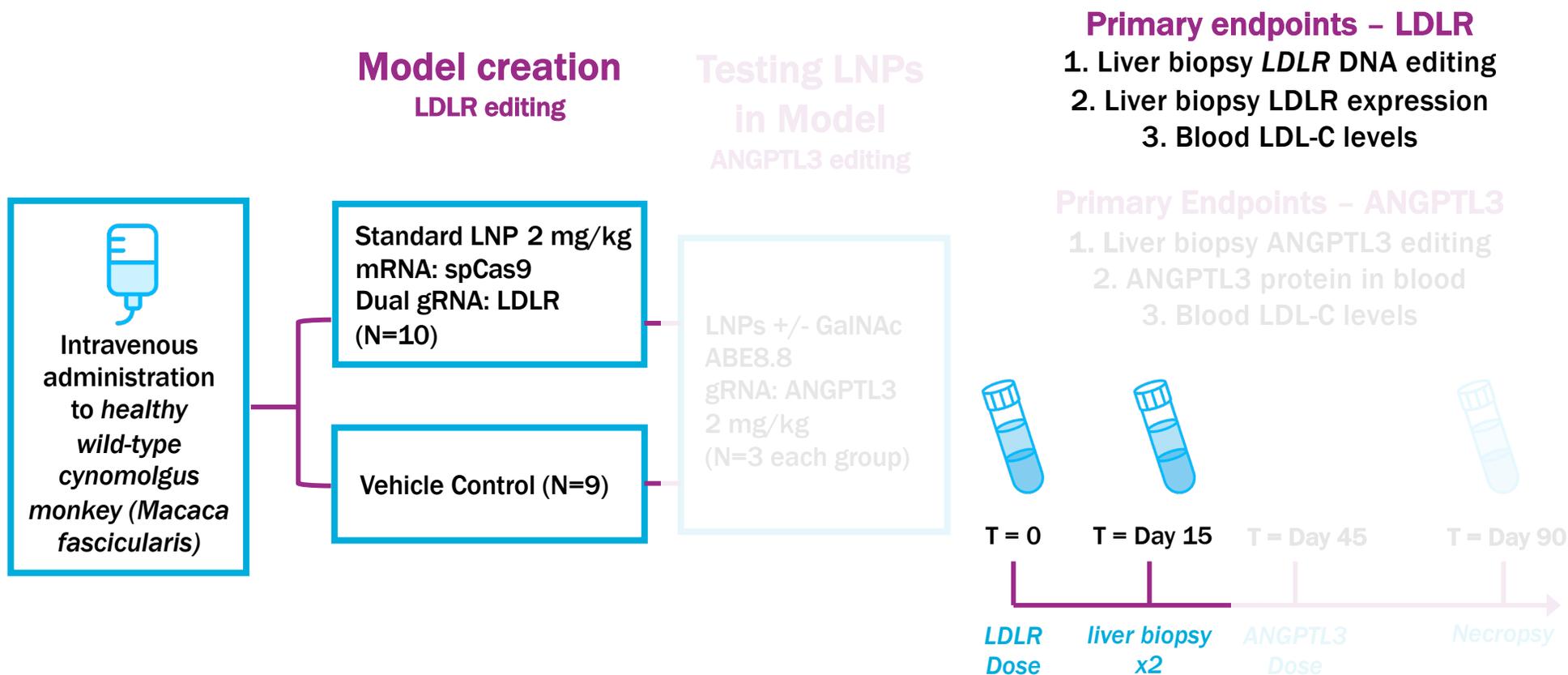
Will GalNAc-LNPs truly bypass LDLR in primates and humans?

Need a model of HoFH in NHP to evaluate if ANGPTL3 drug candidates are likely to allow delivery to HoFH patients (as well as HeFH)

Creation of a HoFH model in NHP through liver editing

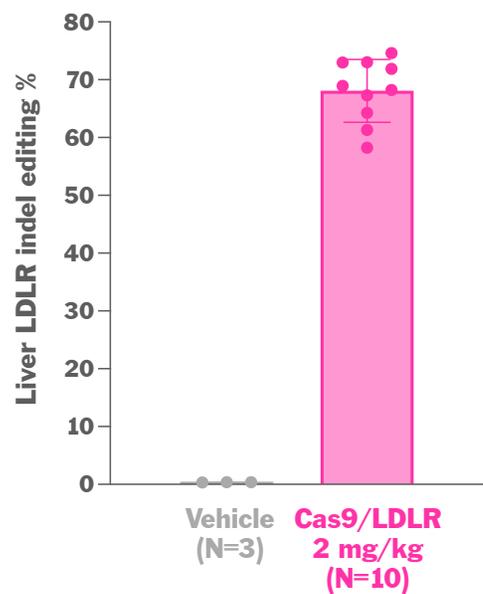
-  Eliminate LDLR protein expression just from the liver by targeted editing of the *LDLR* gene in hepatocytes
-  Use Cas9 and a dual gRNA strategy, encapsulated in LNPs that deliver to the liver, in wild-type NHPs to delete a ~50 bp portion of the LDLR gene and efficiently disrupt LDLR protein expression just in the liver

Creating a model of HoFH in NHP



Efficient disruption of LDLR gene in NHP liver

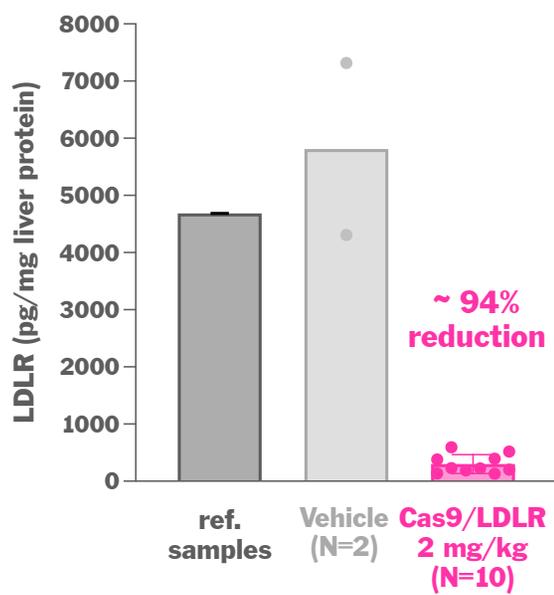
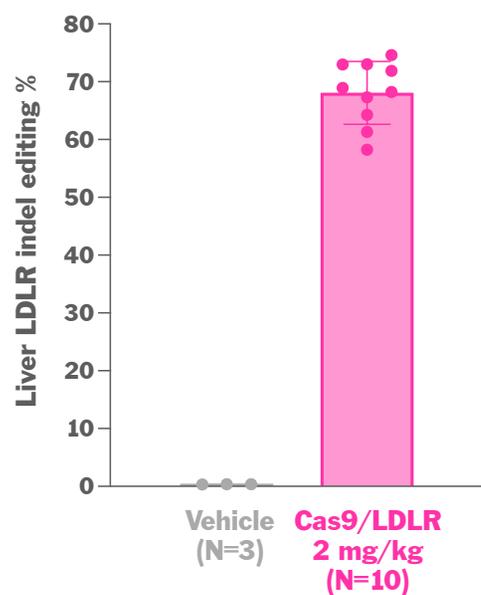
Liver LDLR editing %
(indel creation) in liver biopsy



Liver editing disrupts LDLR gene: 94% reduction in LDLR protein

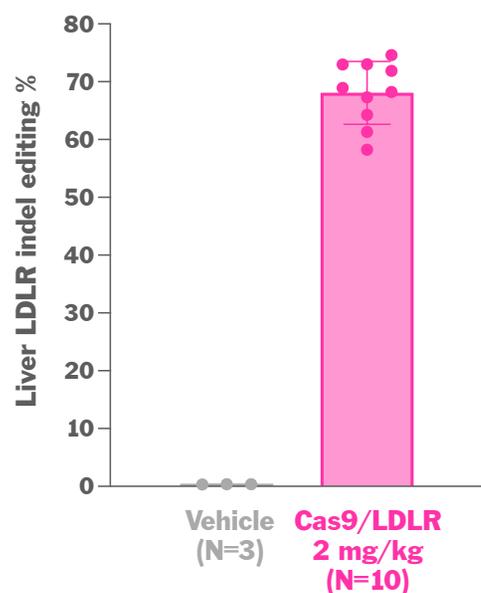
**Liver LDLR editing %
(indel creation) in liver biopsy**

**Liver LDLR expression by
protein ELISA on liver biopsy**

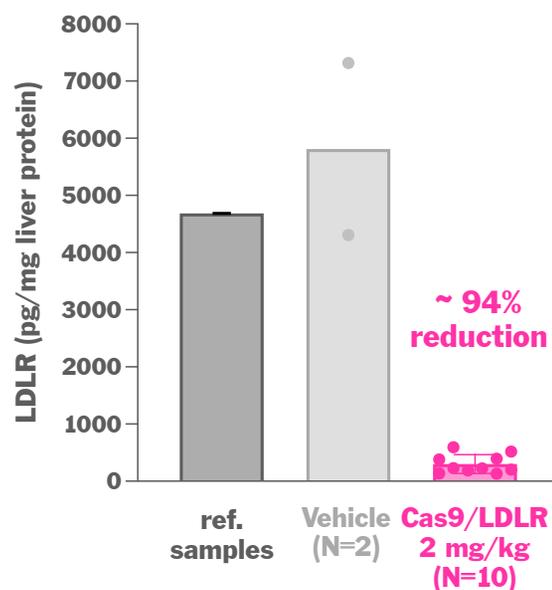


Liver editing disrupts LDLR gene: blood LDL-C rises six-fold

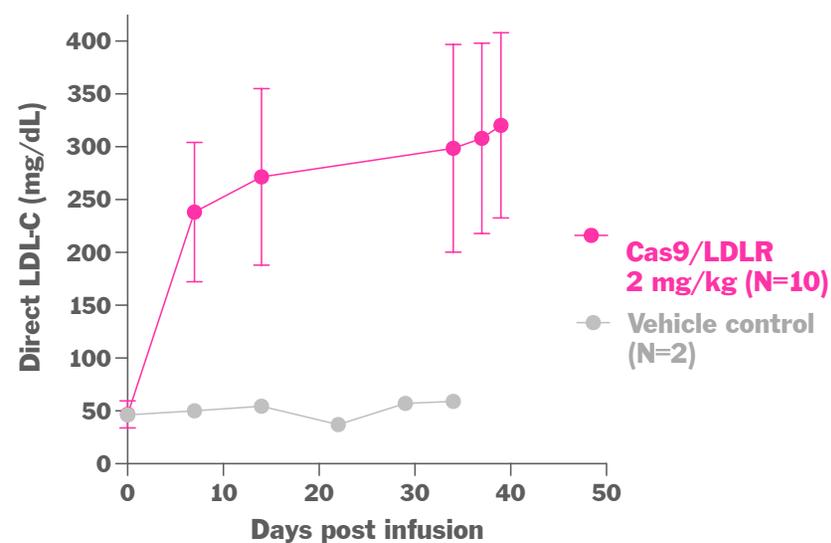
**Liver LDLR editing %
(indel creation) in liver biopsy**



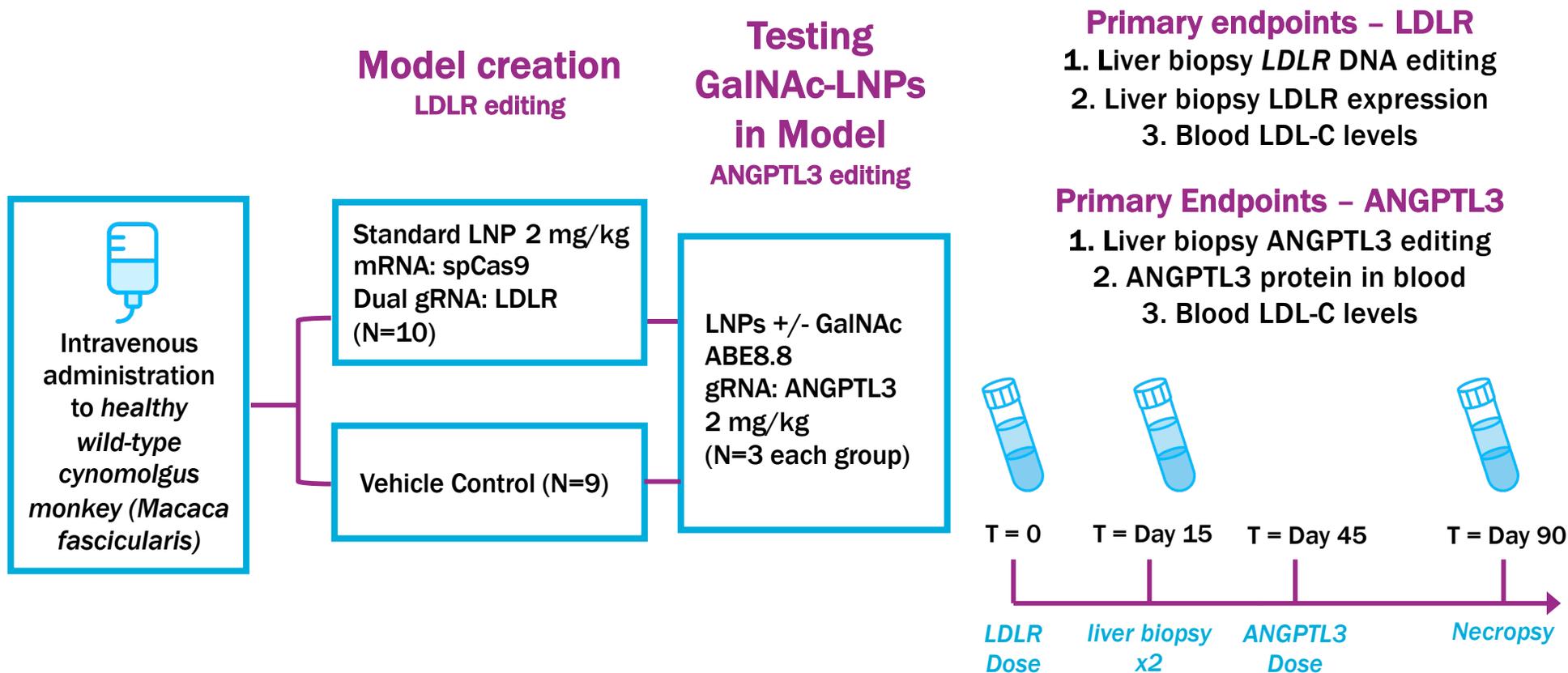
**Liver LDLR expression by
protein ELISA on liver biopsy**



**LDL-C rises from ~50 mg/dL
to more than 300 mg/dL**



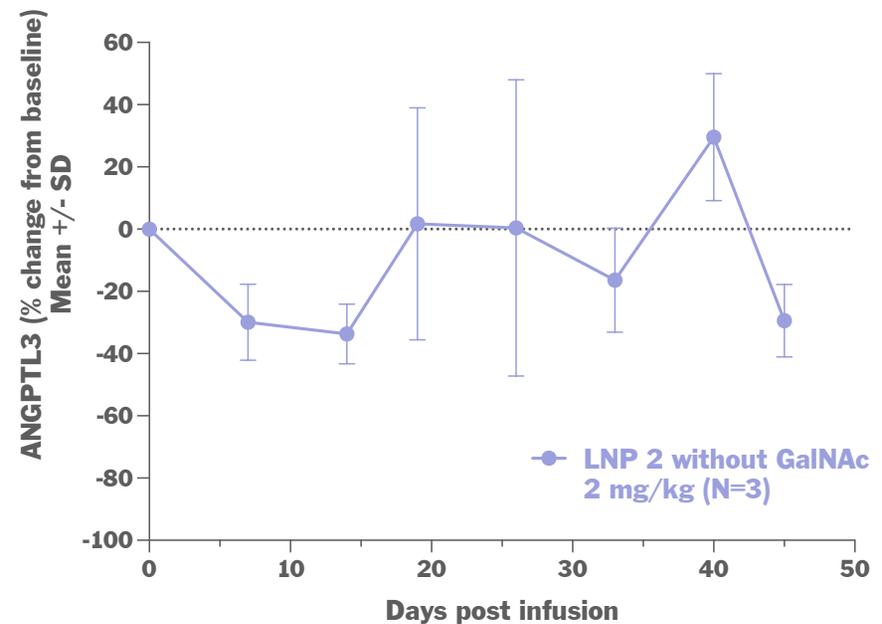
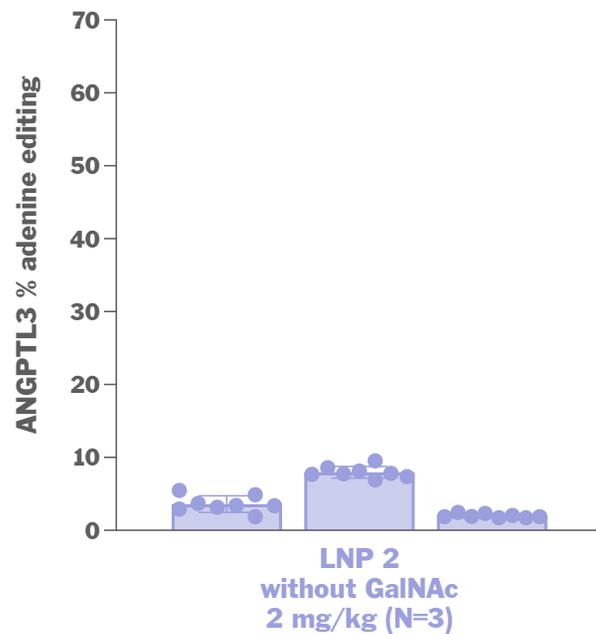
Testing GalNAc-LNPs in a model of HoFH in NHP



Standard LNPs (without GalNAc) do not achieve effective ANGPTL3 base editing in the liver of the HoFH NHPs



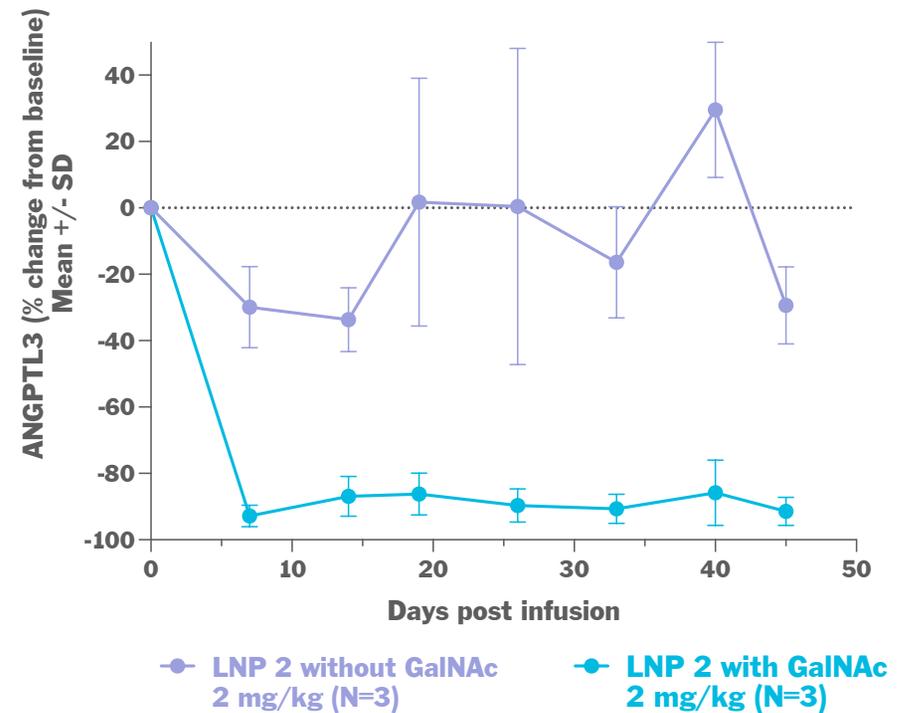
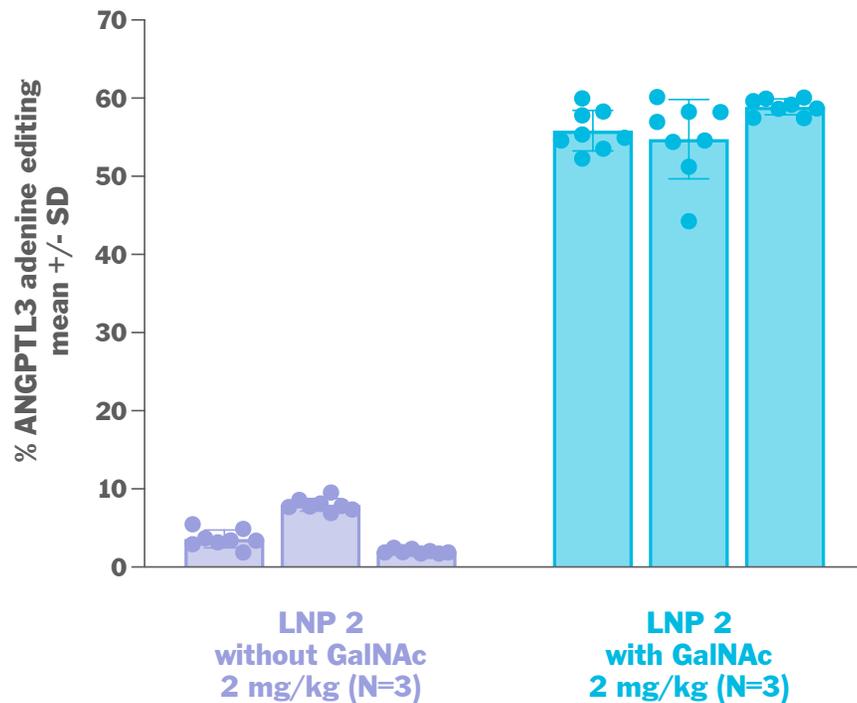
Standard LNP in HoFH NHP model



Verve's GalNAc-LNP achieves effective ANGPTL3 base editing in the HoFH NHP liver



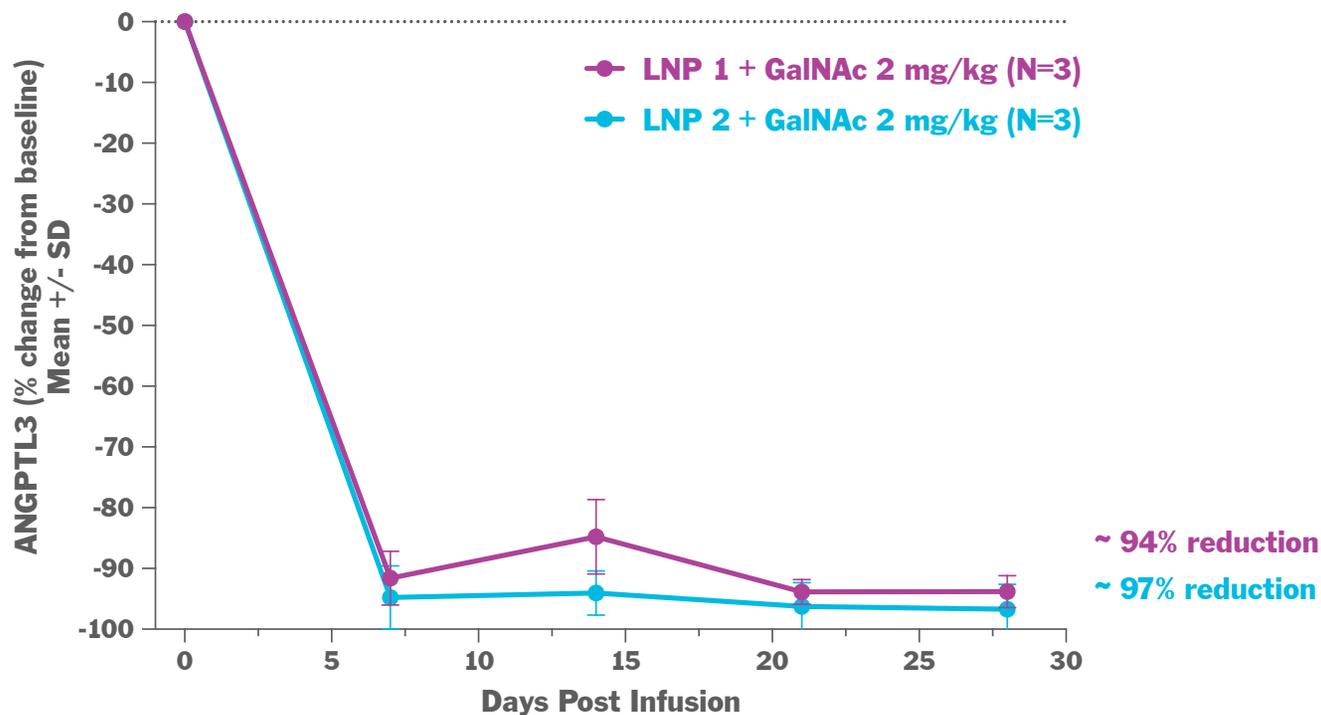
GalNAc-targeting bypasses LDLR and achieves liver editing



Base editing of ANGPTL3 via GalNAc-LNPs reduces blood ANGPTL3 by 94% - 97% in NHP model of HoFH



GalNAc LNPs (encapsulating ABE-ANGPTL3 base editing payload) dosed to HoFH NHPs that already have stable disruption of LDLR protein and markedly elevated LDL-C

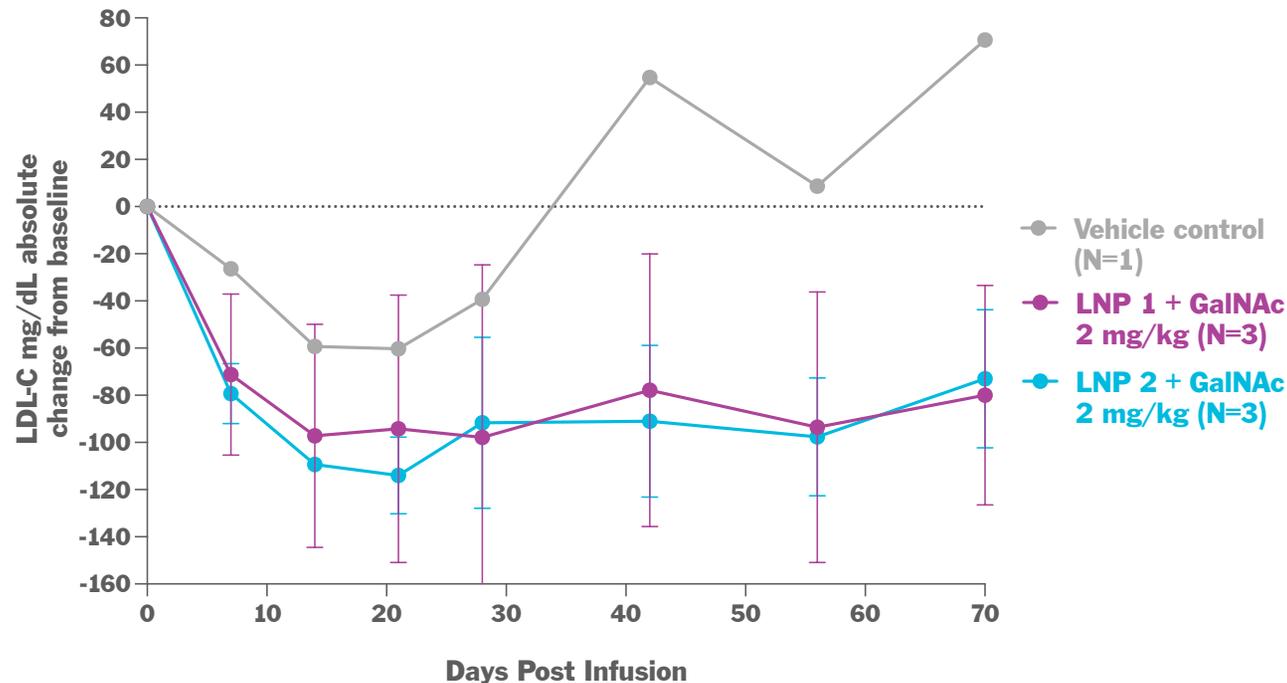


Base editing of ANGPTL3 via GalNAc-LNPs reduces blood LDL-C in NHP model of HoFH



GalNAc LNPs (encapsulating ABE-ANGPTL3 base editing payload) dosed to HoFH NHPs that already have stable disruption of LDLR protein and markedly elevated LDL-C ~ 300 mg/dL

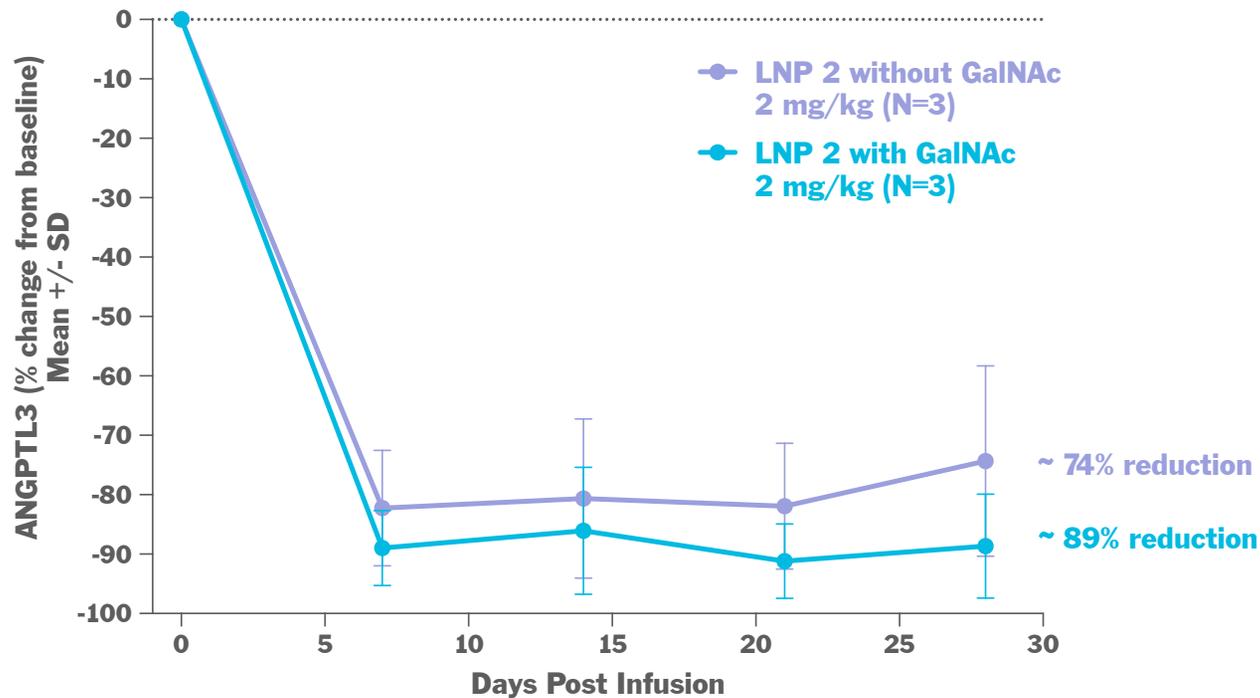
Baseline direct LDL-C ~ 300 mg/dL at time of test article dosing to HoFH NHPs



Is there relevance of the GalNAc-LNP delivery system to normal liver? Yes, may have improved potency when compared to standard LNPs



Wild-type NHPs administered the same LNP with and without inclusion of GalNAc-lipid



Large confirmatory dose-response studies in wild-type NHPs are ongoing

GalNAc-LNP delivery system will enable ANGPTL3 editing in both patients with HeFH and HoFH



Presented today



- **Creation of an NHP model that recapitulates two key features of homozygous FH**
 - Liver deficiency of LDLR to model uptake of LNPs in HoFH
 - Marked hyperlipidemia to model circulating lipids and how that might impact LNP uptake by the liver
- **Demonstration that GalNAc LNPs enable highly efficient delivery and ANGPTL3 editing in the liver of the HoFH model in NHP**

Next steps



- **Evaluation of dose response of GalNAc-LNPs as compared with standard non-GalNAc LNPs in wild-type NHP and mouse disease models**
- **Biodistribution and PK studies**
- **IND-enabling studies planned to initiate in 2022**



Thank you to our world-class team of problem solvers

