



# ADVANCING ORPHAN ONCOLOGY

Ticker symbol: ACE  
Nasdaq Stockholm  
[www.ascelia.com](http://www.ascelia.com)

## Ascelia Pharma

September 2024

**ASCELIA  
PHARMA**

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We identify, develop and commercialize novel drugs that address unmet needs of people with rare cancer conditions



# ASCELIA PHARMA - HIGHLIGHTS

## Pipeline

### ORVIGLANCE® – Registration phase

- First-in-class contrast agent for use in liver MRI in patients with severely impaired kidney function
- FDA Orphan Drug Designation
- Global addressable market of USD 800 million
- Phase 3 study successful and clinical development completed

### ONCORAL – Phase 2-ready

- Daily, oral irinotecan chemotherapy
- Clinical collaboration with Taiho Oncology
- Opportunity in gastric cancer and other solid tumors

## Global outlook and Nordic roots

Based in Malmö (Sweden), US affiliate in New Jersey (US)  
Listed on NASDAQ Stockholm (Ticker: ACE)



**ORVIGLANCE®**

**Liver diagnostic imaging drug**

**ONCORAL**

**Daily, oral chemotherapy**

PORTFOLIO



# ATTRACTIVE ORVIGLANCE OPPORTUNITY

- A **well-defined unmet need** for liver imaging in cancer patients with impaired kidney function
- A global addressable market opportunity of **USD 800 million**
- **Clinical development completed** with 9 studies and strong phase 3 results
- Commercial scale **manufacturing**
- Orviglance advances to **regulatory filing and approval** phase
- Commercialization with **partner**



# ORVIGLANCE – FILLING AN UNMET NEED IN LIVER MRI

## Patient Landscape

Liver metastases are critical in cancer care



Liver metastases are common in many cancer types and often the cause of mortality<sup>1-3</sup>

- Colorectal cancer, metastatic breast cancer, gastric cancer

## Treatments

Contrast enhanced MRI is the gold standard

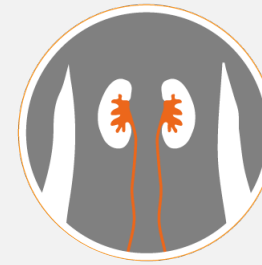


Contrast enhanced MRI

- Detection and visualization
- Surgery & drug treatment plan
- Post-treatment surveillance

## Unmet Need

A role for ORVIGLANCE in patients with severe kidney impairment



Patients with healthy kidneys

- Receive MRI with gadolinium-based contrast agent (GBCA)

Patients with severe kidney impairment

- Black Box warning for gadolinium contrast agents
- Risk of severe side effects, incl. Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF)

## ORVIGLANCE

Aims to be the imaging option without gadolinium-related safety risks in patients with severe kidney impairment

- Manganese based
- Liver specific

1) Riihimäki, M. *et al.* Patterns of metastasis in colon and rectal cancer. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 29765; doi: 10.1038/srep29765 (2016); *Journal of Pathology*, 2014, 232:23-31

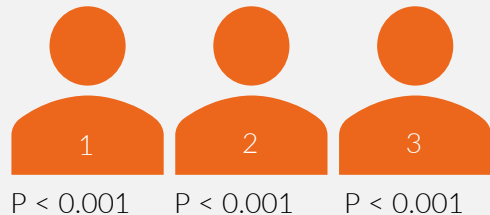
2) Guy diSibio and Samuel W. French (2008) Metastatic Patterns of Cancers: Results From a Large Autopsy Study. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*: June 2008, Vol. 132, No. 6, pp. 931-939

3) Rahbari *et al.* Metastatic Spread Emerging From Liver Metastases of Colorectal Cancer: Does the Seed Leave the Soil Again? *Annals of Surgery*: February 2016 - Volume 263 - Issue 2 - p 345-352

# STRONG SUPERIORITY OF ORVIGLANCE IN PHASE 3

## Primary Endpoint Met Successfully

- Phase 3 study demonstrated **strong superiority** in visualization of focal liver lesions with Orviglance (CMRI) compared to unenhanced MRI
- Visualization scored **significantly higher** with Orviglance than without for all three readers with
  - statistical significance ( $p < 0.001$ )
  - strong and conclusive reliability of the data (including variability)



- Common adverse events were consistent with previous studies, such as mild to moderate nausea; **no serious adverse drug reactions** were observed

### PRESS RELEASE

02 May 2024 11:12:00 CEST

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## Ascelia Pharma Successfully Meets Primary Endpoint with Strong Headline Results in Orviglance Phase 3 Study

Ascelia Pharma AB (publ) (ticker: ACE), a biotech focused on improving the life of people living with rare cancer conditions, today announced that liver imaging drug candidate, Orviglance®, significantly improved visualization of focal liver lesions, successfully meeting the primary endpoint in the pivotal Phase 3 study SPARKLE. Investors and analysts are invited to the virtual Investor Update: "Bringing Orviglance to Patients", on Tuesday, 7 May at 14:00 CEST



# PIVOTAL ORVIGLANCE PHASE 3 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

## SPARKLE CLINICAL STUDY

- Oral manganese-based liver-specific MRI contrast agent
- Orphan Drug designation (US) for patients for which current gadolinium-based contrast agents are medically inadvisable

### Patients

- Global study, 85 patients from 32 study sites in USA, Europe, and Latin America
- Known or suspected focal liver lesions and severe kidney impairment

### Endpoints

- **Primary:** Improved lesion visualization (Lesion border delineation + lesions contrast)
- **Secondary:** Other efficacy endpoints, incl. quantitative image improvement, and safety

### Comparator

- Unenhanced MRI + Orviglance MRI vs Unenhanced MRI
- Each patient their own control

### Evaluation

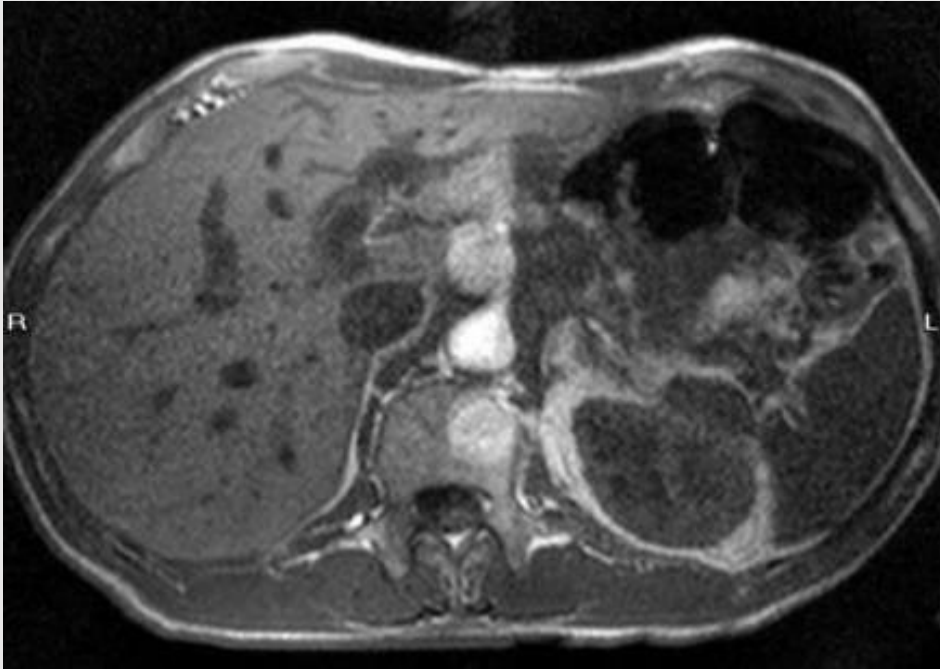
- Centralized evaluation by 3 independent radiologists

### Follow-up

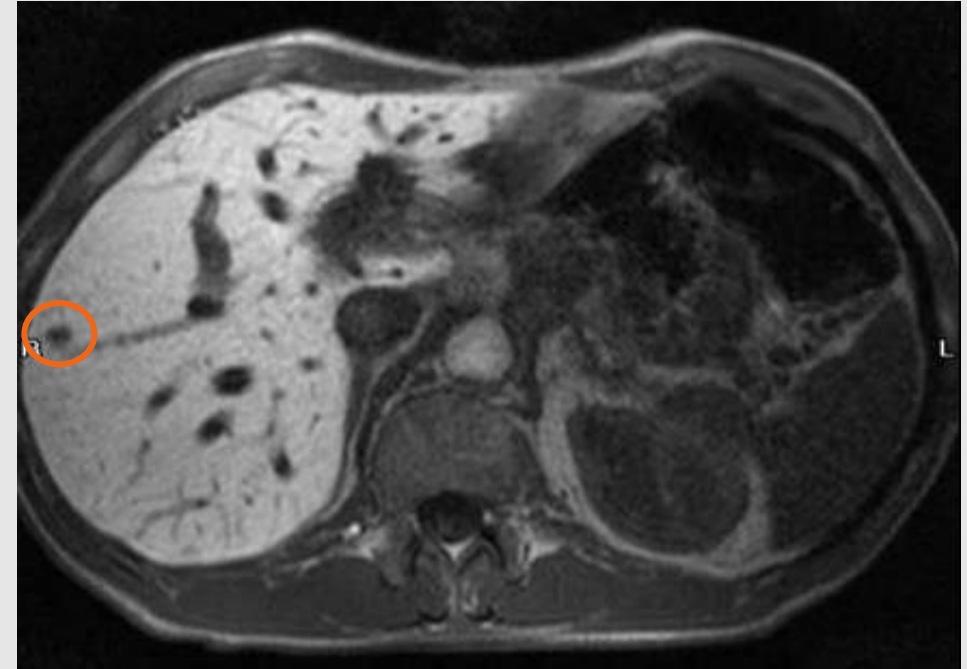
- Up to 7 days for safety

# STRONG LIVER ENHANCEMENT WITH ORVIGLANCE

## PATIENT EXAMPLE FROM PHASE 2 STUDY



**UNENHANCED** liver MRI (without contrast agent)



**ORVIGLANCE** contrast enhanced liver MRI  
Liver metastasis appears with ORVIGLANCE



# CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT COMPLETED



Nine studies with consistent positive efficacy and safety results<sup>1-7</sup>

286 patients and healthy volunteers

Phase 1 studies demonstrated safety, absorption and signal intensity

Total 4 studies with 126 healthy volunteers

Phase 2 studies demonstrated efficacy and safety in patients with known metastases

Total 4 studies with 75 patients

Orvigance efficacy confirmed vs. gadolinium & unenhanced in re-evaluation

Re-read of phase 2 study (20 patients) with liver metastases with same endpoint as in phase 3

Phase 3 study confirmed efficacy and safety in the target population

Pivotal study on visualization of focal liver lesions and safety in patients with severe kidney impairment (85 patients)

1) Thomsen HS *et al.*, Acad Radiol 2004; 11: 630-636

2) Thomsen HS *et al.*, Eur Radiol 2007; 17: 273-278

3) Rief M *et al.*, Invest Radiol. 2010; 45: 565-71

4) Brismar TB *et al.*, Eur Radiol 2012; 22:633-41

5) Albiin N *et al.*, MAGMA. 2012; 25:361-368

6) Study CMC-P005, primary objective to study of Orvigance for imaging of bile ducts (not published)

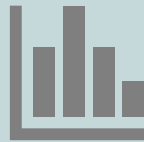
7) Results from Phase 1 and 2 and Food Effect and Hepatic Impairment Studies presented at RSNA and ESGAR conferences between 2022 and 2023

# ADVANCING ORVIGLANCE TOWARDS APPROVAL

Clinical



Nonclinical



CMC



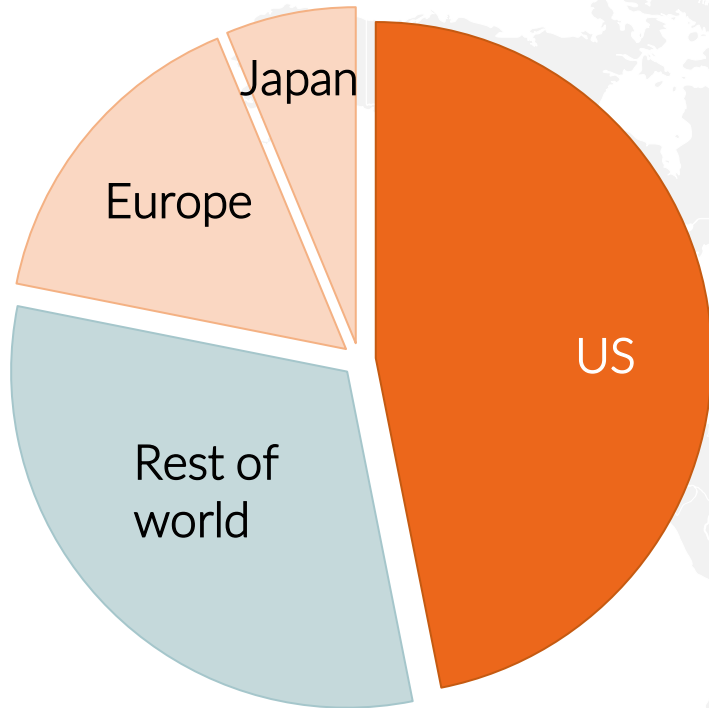
## US FDA

Timely submission and approval by the US FDA as an orphan drug with an optimal label for use in the target population

- Full Clinical Study Report early Q4 2024
- Conclusions from FDA pre-submission meeting by Q1 2025
- NDA submission mid-2025



# ATTRACTIVE GLOBAL ADDRESSABLE MARKET



Global addressable market of USD 800 million, half of this in the US

**Focused launch** for well-defined patient population in liver imaging in cancer patients with severe kidney impairment

Global commercialization through partners

Sources:

Ascelia Pharma market research on real-world volumes with Decision Resources Group, 2020.. Ascelia Pharma market access research and analyses with Revenue Reimbursement Solutions and Charles River Associates (2020), Triangle (2022) and Trinity (2022), incl. 75 stakeholder and expoert interactions. 1) Final pricing strategy is subject to Phase 3 data, payer evidence, negotiations, discounts and access strategy

# CREATING VALUE BY PARTNERING FOR COMMERCIALIZATION

## Objectives for commercialization

- Create revenue stream with limited investment required
- Leverage established commercialization capabilities and scale
- Maximize value with globally optimized launch efforts

## Global commercialization through partners

Establish commercial partnerships

Secure launch readiness



Secure LAUNCH READINESS and PARTNERING



# OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNER

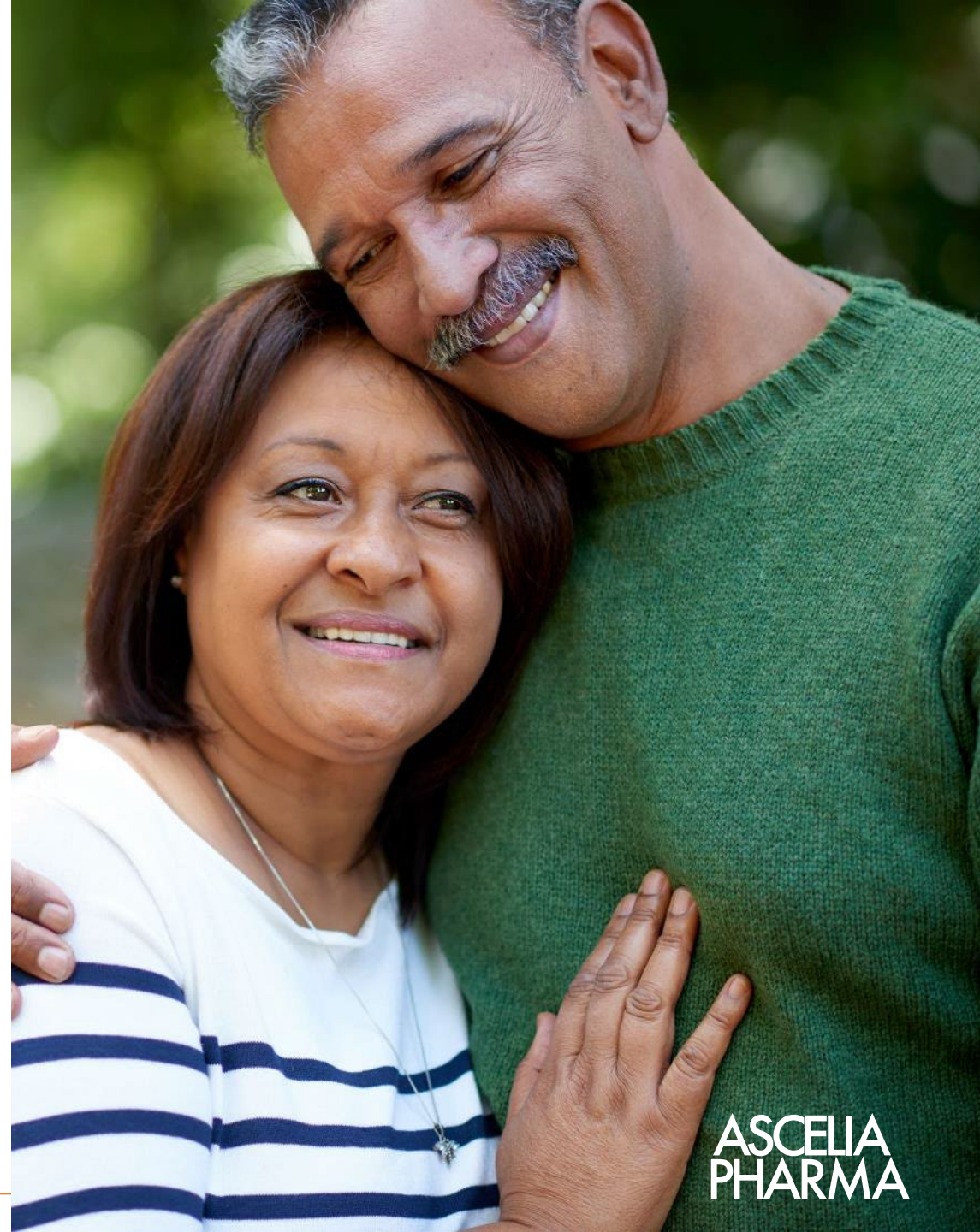
## Orviglance value for partner

**De-risked** asset – development completed with strong efficacy and safety expected to lead to FDA approval

**Unmet need** with high value for payers  
– high value per patient

**Clear** value proposition for decision makers  
– patients, physicians and payers

**Focused** hospital/imaging unit launch efforts  
– 400 key accounts drive most of the opportunity



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# PARTNER CANDIDATES

## Potential partner profiles

Relevant commercialization capabilities

- Hospital footprint/focus
- Radiology/nephrology/oncology/specialty drugs
- High-value/orphan drug
- ...

Shared strategy

Shared success



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# US MARKET OPPORTUNITY



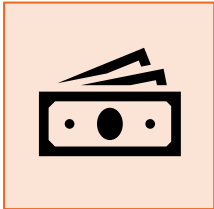
Abdominal imaging procedures in cancer patients with severe kidney impairment based on epidemiology and real-world data<sup>1</sup>

~100,000  
procedures annually



Around 2,000 radiologists or 400 provider accounts serve 75% of kidney impaired patients<sup>4</sup>

~400  
accounts



Price range benchmarks based on innovative diagnostics, payer and expert input, and price testing<sup>2, 3</sup>

\$3,000 - \$4,500  
price range

Sources:  
1) Ascelia Pharma market research with Decision Resources Group, 2020. Literature on prevalence and epidemiology of kidney disease, cancer and liver metastases.  
2) Ascelia Pharma market access research and analyses with Revenue Reimbursement Solutions and Charles River Associates (2020), Triangle (2022) and Trinity (2022)  
3) Final pricing strategy is subject to Phase 3 data, payer evidence, negotiations, discounts and access strategy  
4) Ascelia Pharma analysis based on market research with Decision Resources Group, 2020



# UNMET NEED RECOGNIZED IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

**NSF\* risk**  
with warnings for target population

“Those of us who have seen NSF are frightened by it... you’ll get **buy-in from a lot of nephrologists...**”  
- Head of Renal section at US university hospital  
(from Ascelia Pharma Advisory Board meeting)

**+90%**



of HCPs are concerned by issues  
relating to GBCAs (including NSF)

**+16%**



of providers have experienced  
GBCA-induced NSF

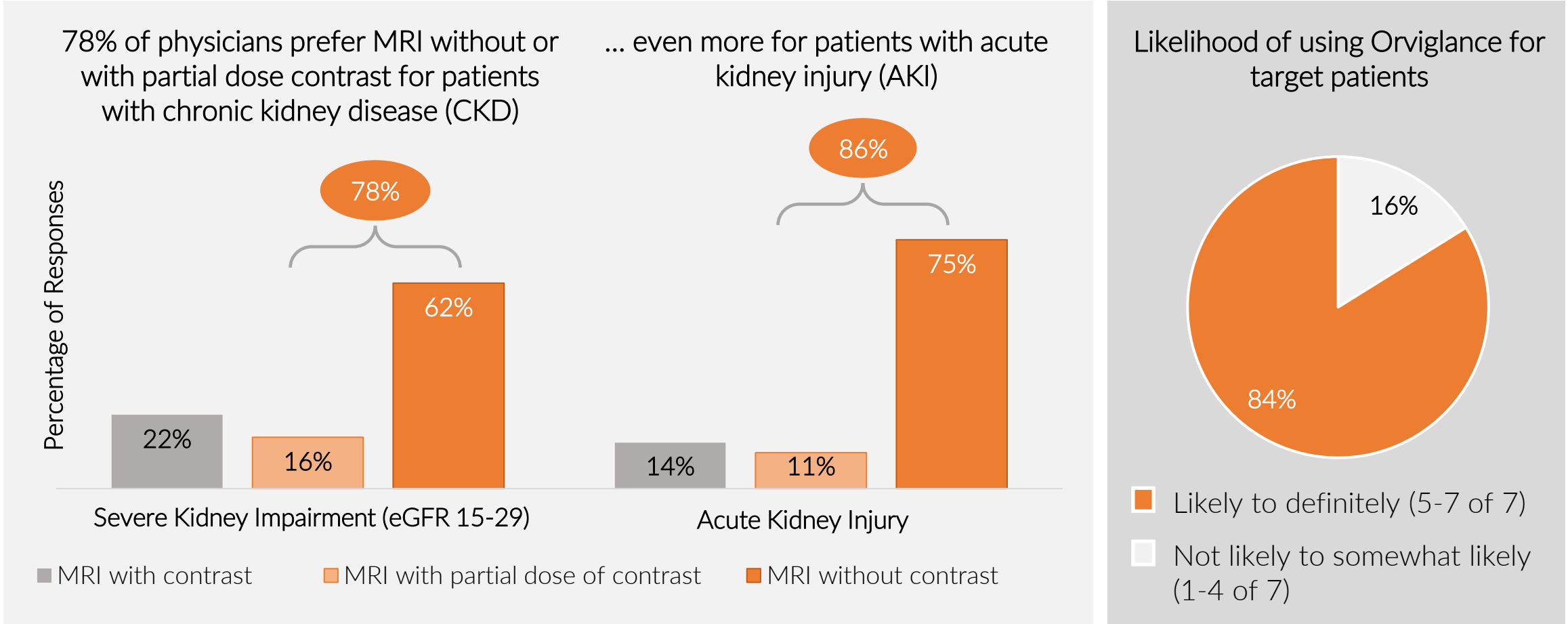
““The college [American College of Radiology]...have a **growing sense of responsibility and accountability** about using these agents in high-risk patients.... our perception of which agents are “safe” has changed... this is another place where practice needed to evolve”  
- SPARKLE Investigator and Head of Radiology at US university hospital

\*nephrogenic systemic fibrosis





# UNENHANCED MRI PREFERRED TODAY; 84% OF US PHYSICIANS LIKELY TO USE ORVIGLANCE



Likelihood of using Orviglance for target patients

Likelihood	Percentage
Likely to definitely (5-7 of 7)	84%
Not likely to somewhat likely (1-4 of 7)	16%

84%

16%

■ Likely to definitely (5-7 of 7)

■ Not likely to somewhat likely (1-4 of 7)

Source: Independent research by Two Labs Pharma Services for Ascelia Pharma in the USA conducted in Q4 2021/Q1 2022 included 16 in depth interviews and a survey of 254 healthcare professionals (HCPs), including 154 radiologists N =103 oncologist, nephrologist, and radiologist responses. Q: Please assign priority to the imaging tests in the sequence or order in which you would recommend or perform them



# ORVIGLANCE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Nine leading US experts in liver disease and imaging shared their experience and advice

## Key topics included

- Trends in liver imaging
  - SAGE (Symptoms Associated with Gadolinium Exposure)
  - LI-RADS (Liver Reporting & Data System)
  - Abbreviated Protocols (Shortened MRI by eliminating selected steps)
- Guidelines
- The journey of a patient with liver lesions
- The role of ORVIGLANCE in clinical practice

## Advisors include

- Dr. Alessandro Furlan (Radiology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)
- Dr. Alvin Silva (Radiology, Mayo Arizona)
- Dr. Amit Singal (Hepatology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center)
- Dr. Bachir Touli (Radiology, Mount Sinai New York)
- Dr. Claude Sirlin (Radiology, University of California, San Diego)
- Dr. Jeffrey Weinreb (Radiology, Yale University)
- Dr. Kathryn Fowler (Radiology, University of California, San Diego)
- Dr. Richard Do (Radiology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)
- Dr. Victoria Chernyak (Radiology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)



# MOMENTUM FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO GADOLINIUM

## Deposition in Brain & Organs

concerns around safety for all patients

New safety category recommended for Symptoms Associated with Gadolinium exposure (SAGE), by Am. College of Rad. (2022)

Multiple-GBCA effect on body movement and mental skills study requested by the FDA (ODYSSEY, 2020)

## Water Contamination

scrutiny of environmental impact

Gadolinium is excreted in urine. Hard to remove in our sewage systems, it is discharged into our environment and drinking water

“The gadolinium-anomaly in Tone River [Japan] increased from 851% (sampled in 1996) to 6,545% i.e. 7.7 times, reflecting the increased use of gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) in hospitals”<sup>1</sup>

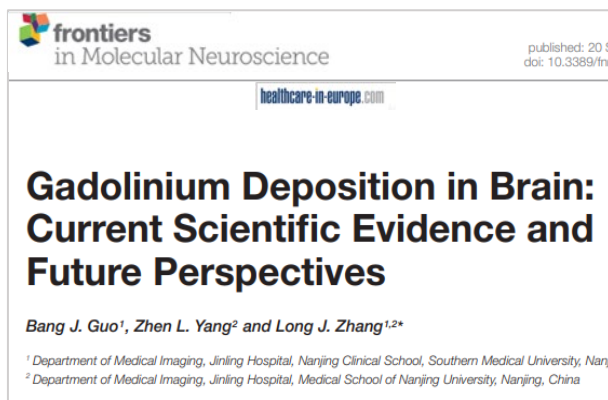
## Future with Less/No Gadolinium

focus of leading gadolinium manufactures

Low dose full-body gadolinium contrast agents

- FDA approved in priority review (2022) and EMA (2023) approved (gadopiclenol, Guerbet/Bracco)
- Initiation of Phase 3 (gadoquatane, Bayer 2023)

Completion of Phase 1 patient enrollment in full-body IV manganese-based contrast agent (GE HealthCare 2023)



1) Kumasaka et al. Anthropogenic gadolinium in the Tone River (Japan): an update showing a 7.7-fold increase from 1996 to 2020, European Radiology Experimental 8, Article number 64 (2024)  
Other sources include:  
Macke et al. Fast and automated monitoring of gadolinium-based contrast agents in surface waters, Water Research, Volume 207, 2021.  
Oluwasola et al, Gadolinium based contrast agents (GBCAs): Uniqueness, aquatic toxicity concerns, and prospective remediation. Journal of Contaminant Hydrology, Volume 250, 2022.  
M. Nicholl. Seeking alternatives to gadolinium-based contrast agents. Healthcareineurope.com. July 22022  
Bang G. Gadolinium Deposition in Brain: Current Scientific Evidence and Future Perspectives. Mol. Neurosci., 20 September 2018.

Reimagine  
imaging for  
people with  
poor kidney  
function

REVIEW ARTICLE

OPEN

## Oral Manganese Chloride Tetrahydrate: A Novel Magnetic Resonance Liver Imaging Agent for Patients With Renal Impairment *Efficacy, Safety, and Clinical Implication*

Torkel B. Brismar, MD, PhD, Dominik Geisel, MD, Nikolaos Kartalis, MD, PhD, Beatrice L. Hanna Persson Hedman, PhD, and Andreas Norlin, PhD



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### Ascelia Pharma Meets Primary Endpoint in Phase 3 Study of Orviglance Liver Imaging Contrast Agent Drug Candidate

Swedish biotech company Ascelia Pharma has announced that its liver imaging drug candidate, Orviglance, significantly improved visualization of focal liver lesions, successfully meeting the primary endpoint in the pivotal Phase 3 study SPARKLE. Orviglance, whose CEO Magnus Corttzen is shown here, is in development as a first-in-class contrast agent for use in liver MRI in patients with severely impaired kidney function and has been granted FDA Orphan Drug Designation.

### Ascelia Pharma Successfully Meets Primary Endpoint with Strong Headline Results in Orviglance Phase 3 Study

Published: May 02, 2024

ASCELIA PHARMA AB (PUBL) (TICKER: ACE),  
A BIOTECH FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE

**A New Approach to Imaging Focal Liver Lesions in Patients With Reduced Kidney Function**

**Current magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) methods used to identify liver cancer are inadequate in identifying a potentially fatal side effect in patients with poor kidney function – nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF). Alternative imaging techniques are being developed to address this clinical need**

**Chief Scientist at Ascelia Pharma**

The early detection and localization of focal liver lesions is critical for optimal management of patients with liver cancer or a range of cancers that metastasize to the liver, including colorectal, breast, and gastric cancer. The gold standard method for detecting focal liver lesions is contrast-enhanced MRI. However, in patients with poor kidney function, all gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) have regulatory black box warnings, as they put those patients at risk of the severe- and sometimes fatal – side effect, NSF.

As patients with poor kidney function may not be able to tolerate these contrast agents, the imaging methods currently used – unenhanced MRI or non-liver specific lower risk GBCAs – significantly reduce the ability of clinicians to find and treat focal liver lesions, ultimately impacting the patient's chance of survival. This patient population, which is estimated to account for around 4% of all patients requiring a liver MRI, is in dire need

of an alternative solution that provides similar imaging insights to those who undergo contrast drug-enhanced MRI.

**The Risk of NSF**

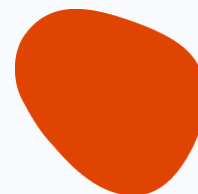
Although a rare condition, NSF is serious and potentially life-threatening. It causes sclerotic transformation and hardening of the skin, and can lead to joint contractures, and muscle and fascial fibrosis, which may lead to severe immobility. It can also affect the inner organs. NSF worsens over time and can cause death, which typically results from multi-system failure. The FDA database has registered 3300+ cases of NSF since 2006 (of which 24% were fatal) and the severity of illness, time to disease manifestation, and GBCA dosing exposures vary individually (1, 2). It should be noted that not all global cases of NSF are reported to the FDA, however.

Regulatory agencies, including the FDA and EMA, have issued warnings about the use of GBCAs, and clinical guidelines restrict use in patients with severe kidney impairment. The American College of Radiology guidelines for GBCA administration advise against administration of group I and group II agents (see Table 1) in those on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease stage four or five to

Group	Classification
I	Gadobutamide, gadopentetate dimeglumine
II	Gadobenate dimeglumine, gadobutrol, gadoterate acid, gadoteridol
III	Gadoversetate

Table 1: American College of Radiology 2016 classification of gadolinium-based contrast agents (by groups I, II, and III)

International Clinical Trials | February 2022



orviglance®  
800 mg powder for oral solution  
manganese chloride tetrahydrate



# SUBSTANTIAL ORVIGLANCE VALUE CREATION OPPORTUNITIES



Advance to approval



Secure partnering and commercialization readiness

Objectives

**Timely submission and approval** by the US FDA as an orphan drug with an optimal label for the use in the target population

**Focused launch** for well-defined patient population with 800 MUSD annual addressable market

**Partner** driven global commercialization

Milestones

- Full SPARKLE Clinical Study Report early **Q4 2024**
- Conclusions from FDA pre-submission meeting by **Q1 2025**
- NDA submission **mid-2025** with Ascelia Pharma and partner readiness

- Advance **launch readiness**
- Establish commercialization **partnership(s)**

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