



## Proteasomes A Promising Drug Delivery-A Review

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### Abstract

A sophisticated big protein complex is called a proteasome. It is in charge of intracellular protein breakdown. Energy for metabolism is needed. A cellular complex called proteasome inhibitors degrades ubiquitinated proteins by attaching the lysine residue's side chain's amino group. this has become a potent therapy option for multiple myeloma (MM). The first-ever proteasome inhibitor is called bortezomib (PI). Carfilzomib is a PI of the second generation. These PIs have been used in a number of regimens along with other substances such as alkylators, immunomodulatory medicines, and monoclonal antibodies. This study provides an overview of the proteasome, its structure, proteasome inhibitors, biological effects, the outcomes of clinical studies looking at combinations of therapeutic medicines based on PIs, and potential future developments in the Myeloma treatment.

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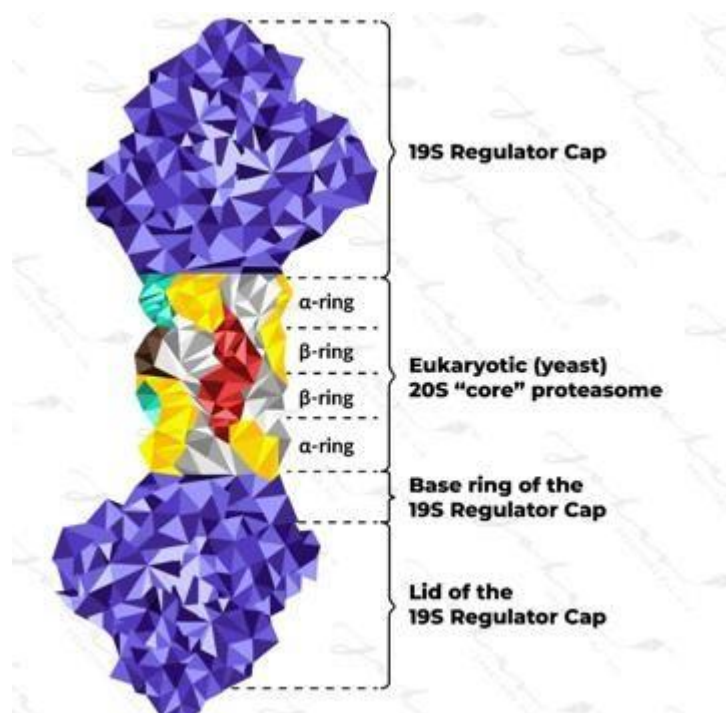
### Introduction

The purpose of proteasomes is to hydrolyse client proteins in a selected, effective manner. It is well-recognized to work with ubiquitin. A signal for controlled proteolysis in eukaryotic cells is formed when it polymerizes. Many target proteins receive a destruction signal when ubiquitin polymerizes with the proteasome. Due to their enormous diversity, E3 (ubiquitin-ligating enzyme) proteins can recognize a protein substrate for ubiquitylation. Patients with multiple myeloma are living longer thanks to proteasome inhibitors (PIs). It serves as the foundation for all stages of contemporary MM therapy. Significant amounts of secretory protein are produced by MM cells. So, a great deal depends on how well the proteasomes work. Proteasome suppression in MM throws off the balance between making new proteins and getting rid of old, damaged ones. It causes apoptosis, excessive unfolded protein response activation, and proteotoxic stress. Hence, all PIs for MM therapy that are clinically accessible are made to target the 5subunit of the constitutive proteasome and immunoproteasome. MM cells are thus made more susceptible to therapy with bortezomib and carfilzomib by co-inhibition of 1 or 2 subunits. The myeloma cells will accumulate and be killed by the PIs. Bortezomib, carfilzomib, and ixazomib are the three PIs currently being used to treat multiple myeloma (MM). As of late, carfilzomibThe 5-subunit of the constitutive proteasome binds irreversibly to this protein and inhibits covalent hydrolysis and has become a current treatment option for patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma (MM). The biological effects of these PI-combination therapy medicines are summarised, along with their pivotal clinical studies, in this review, which also covers the prospects for treating MM in the future.

## Structure of Proteasomes

### 20s and 30s proteasome

The proteasomes, which contain two sub complexes: one is a catalytic core particle (the 20s proteasome), and another is one or two terminal 19s regulatory particles with a molecular mass of around 700 kDa that function as a proteasome activator to generate an enzymatically activated proteasome [1]–[4]. There is an attachment between the 19s and the 20s proteasome on both ends. The elongated 30S molecule may also contain symmetrically arranged 19S RPs in addition to the central portion of the complex [5]. A 19S RP might be attached to the 20S proteasome in order to form the 26S proteasome, which may explain the difference in size between the two structures [6], [7].



**Fig 1 Eukaryotic 20S core proteasome from *saccharomyces cerevisiae***

This is the model of a eukaryotic 20S “core” proteasome (from *saccharomyces cerevisiae*) bound to two 19S regular caps. This is just a model showing the very basic shape of 19S that is divided into a “base”-ring containing six subunits binding the  $\alpha$ -ring of the 20S “core” proteasome and a “lid” containing nine subunits, responsible for recognition, binding, and unfolding of polyubiquitinated substrates, feeding them into the 20S proteasome for terminal degradation.

### Core particle or 20S proteasome

It is a well-organized protein complex with a molecular mass of around 750 kDa and a sedimentation coefficient of 20S. The 20S proteasome is visible under electron microscopy in a variety of eukaryotes, including yeast and humans, as a cylinder-like structure. Two outer rings and two inner rings, each made up of seven structurally comparable and subunits, are stacked axially to produce a packed particle. The rings together make up a  $\alpha_1-7\beta_1-7\beta_1-7\alpha_1-7$  structure. The compound with C<sub>2</sub> symmetry contains the proteasome subunits specifically. Client proteins are processed by the 20S proteasome into oligopeptides with lengths ranging from 3 to 15 amino acids. Oligo peptidases and/or amino-carboxyl peptidases

then hydrolyze the peptide products into amino acids. Whilst the binding of denatured proteins to the closed  $\alpha$ -ring appears to aid in the gate opening, the mechanisms governing these processes are poorly understood [8], [9]. It remains unclear presently whether the proteasome 20S is able to carry out *in vivo* proteolysis without assistance from further activators [10]. Although this procedure has been studied *in vitro*, it has not been tested *in vivo* yet.

### Regulatory particle or PA700

On one or both ends of the central 20S proteasomal core, the enzymatically dynamic proteasome is regularly encased by administrative proteins. The RP recognizes client proteins distinguished by polyubiquitin chains, breaks the bond and captures the protein moiety, unfurls the substratum proteins, opens the  $\alpha$ -rings, and after that transports the unfurled substratum into the CP for apoptosis. A regulatory particle is build-up of approximately 20 subunits, including a regulatory particle of triple-ATPase subunits as well as a regulatory particle of non-ATPase subunits. The molecular weight of the proteins in each of these subgroups varies between 10 and 110 kDa [11], [12].

### Proteasome activator-28 and hybrid proteasome

Another protein that activates the dormant 20S proteasome is PA28 or the 11S regular (REG) [13]. According to an electron microscopic analysis, PA28 interacts with at each end of the middle 20S CP to produce conical caps. Three structurally related components known as  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ , and make up PA28 complexes; their main structures share around 50% of their similarities. The PA28 $\gamma$  seems to form homo polymeric complexes, whereas the PA28 $\alpha$  and PA28 $\beta$  combine into hetero oligomeric complexes with alternating and subunits [14]. According to an immunofluorescence investigation, PA28 $\alpha$  and PA28 $\beta$  are both mostly found in the cytoplasm, whereas PA28 $\gamma$  is primarily found in the nucleus outside of the nucleolus [15]. Recombinant REG $\alpha$  (PA28 $\alpha$ ) underwent X-ray crystallographic investigation, which identified a heptameric complex [16].

### Proteasome activator or Blm10

Although there are conflicting reports on the exact functions of Blm10 is thought to regulate proteasome assembly or proteolytic activity [17], [18]. Yeast-purified proteasome precursors containing Ump1 contained Blm10. Under normal circumstances, Blm10-deficient cells developed seemingly normally, but Ump1 yield and  $\beta$ 5 processing were sped up, suggesting a function in avoiding the premature development of 20S proteasomes [19]. Contrarily, Blm10 supports proteasome development, likely by balancing growing proteasomes 20S, as shown by the substantial reduction of proteasome activity. And  $\beta$ 2 processing caused by the combination of Blm10 deletion and  $\beta$ 7 C-terminal truncations [20]. The contradiction between Blm10's two contradictory roles is yet unresolved. By opening an axial into the proteolytic chamber, Blm10 adjusts to the end of the core particle cylinder where it is perfectly placed to initiate the certainly inhibited CP, according to studies utilising electron microscopy (EM) [17]. The nuclear protein PA200, on the other hand, which is also broadly expressed, encourages the proteasomal hydrolysis of peptides but not proteins [18]. Fascinatingly, removing PA200 caused a considerable drop in man fertility but not woman fertility, revealing a crucial essential role for PA200 during spermatogenesis. It is also noteworthy that PA200 killer blow mice are healthy have no evident advancing malformations.

**PI31**

The previously reported inhibitor of 20S proteasomes, PI31, reveals that it is a critical factor in the regulation of proteasome activity[21]. Blocks proteasome activation by both proteasome regulatory proteins, PA700 and PA28. PI31 is a proline protein, with 26% of the amino acids being proline, especially in its carboxy-terminal half, and the protein appears to have extensive secondary structure. The PI31 proline-rich domain inhibits proteasomes. Yet, Based on the observation that PI31 preferentially suppresses the maturation of immunoproteasome precursor complexes, it is also asserted that Proteasome production and proteasome-mediated antigen processing are initiated by PI31 within the cell[22].

**Diversity of proteasome**

Because of its essential roles in cells, the complex of proteasome has been substantially preserved throughout progression. Budding yeast possesses seven  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  type subunits, which is compatible with the 20S proteasome's seven-subunit  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  ring. Vertebrates, on the other hand,  $\beta$  have significantly more than seven type components. As a result, the system of proteasome in vertebrates has a high degree of variety among the subunits, which progressed during the development of accommodative immunity. In this area, I will discuss the proteasome's various purposes, with a focus on its immunological plays. Furthermore, several proteasome genes are found in flies and plants, however their biological roles remain unknown[23].

**Proteasome assembly**

How the intricate 20S and 26S proteasome structures are set up is still mostly unclear. For instance, it is not entirely clear how the numerous groups of different but structurally related subunits are positioned correctly in the 20S proteasome. Recent studies have focused on the development of eukaryotic 20S proteasomes, which are made up of 28 subunits, all of which has a specific location inside the 20S particle.

**Proteasome interacting proteins**

Auxiliary components that are physically or momentarily linked to the 26S have been found by recent proteomic investigations[24]–[26]. These components have both known and unidentified activities. Two groups can be made from it. Protein components connected to the ubiquitylation mechanism are found in the first group. The second subset of components controls proteasome activities through direct binding.

**Proteasome inhibitors**

These results suggest that more PI-resistant patients may benefit from high dose carfilzomib[27]. Throughout the past ten years, the use of PIs has been the cornerstone of myeloma therapy[28], [29]. In the preclinical and clinical settings, a large number of PIs are being produced and assessed[30]. The primary process for protein degradation of nucleus and cytoplasm of eukaryotic cells is the ubiquitin proteasome pathway (UPP)[31]. Because of the build-up of unfolded and abnormally folded proteins that PIs produce, the ER is stressed, reactive oxygen types are produced, JNK and proteasome53 are activated, cyclin-dependent inhibitors are expressed[32]. And also pro-apoptotic proteins are expressed[33], [34]. According to a recent study, cytotoxicity and considerable functional proteasome inhibition are brought on in MM cells by co-suppressing  $\beta$ 1 or  $\beta$ 2 with  $\beta$ 5 activity[35], [36]. Interestingly, only high dose carfilzomib has been demonstrated to produce 2/5 co-inhibition and to be more lethal on MM cells among the existing PIs[37].

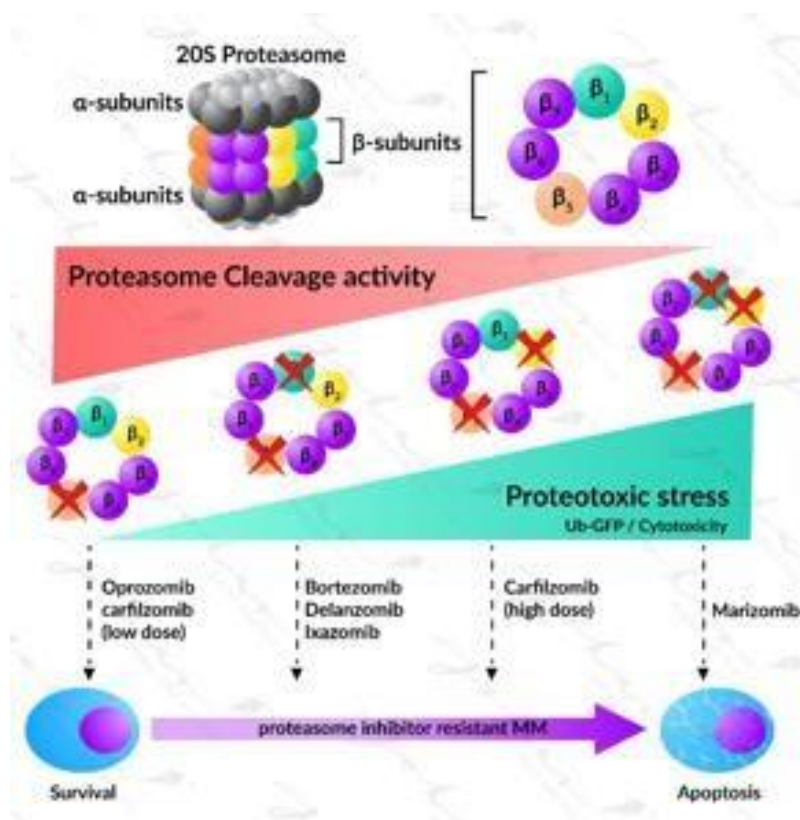


Fig 2 Proteasome inhibition in multiple myeloma [35]

Table1. Chemical and pharmacological features of different proteasome inhibitors [26-27][38]

Proteasome inhibitors	Active moiety	Binding kinetics	Therapeutic Targets	IC50 $\beta$ 5 (nM)	Half life (mins)	Route of administration
Bortezomib	Boronate	Reversible	$\beta$ 5> $\beta$ 1	5.7	110	IV or SC
Carfilzomib	Epoxyketone	Irreversible	$\beta$ 5> $\beta$ 2/ $\beta$ 1	5	<30	IV
Ixazomib	Boronate	Reversible	$\beta$ 5> $\beta$ 1	5.9	18	Oral
Marizomib	$\beta$ -lactone	Irreversible	$\beta$ 5> $\beta$ 2> $\beta$ 1	9.1	10-15	IV or SC
Oprozomib	Epoxyketone	Irreversible	$\beta$ 5	6-12	60-90	Oral
Dlanzomib	Boronate	Reversible	$\beta$ 5> $\beta$ 1	5.6	62 (hrs)	Oral

**Bortezomib preclinical studies**

It is now licenced for the treatment of myeloma in patients who have relapsed after transplant or as a second-line option for those who are not candidates[39], [40]. Bortezomib demonstrated several distinct anti-myeloma actions in preclinical tests, including altering the bone marrow microenvironment, inhibiting nuclear factor kappa B (NF-B), and disrupting cell cycle and inducing apoptosis[41], [42]. Major response rates of over 50% have been observed in the relapsed scenario, demonstrating the synergistic impact of bortezomib when used in conjunction with other chemotherapeutic drugs[43]. With response rates of 80% to 90% when bortezomib is administered in conjunction with other treatments, the first results from front-line therapy studies are encouraging[44]. More crucially, the capacity to mobilise peripheral blood stem cells is not compromised[45]–[49].

**Table-2. Bortezomib with other therapeutic agents for first line therapy[50]–[56]**

Drugs	Phase	No of patients	Median assemble cycle	Major no of rates (CP+PR)	Response rates	Toxicities
Bortezomib+/-, Dexamethasone	II	40	Upto 6 cycles given	85%	64%	Neuropathy, fatigue, constipation, neutropenia.
Bortezomib, Dexamethasone	II	18	16 patients received 4 cycles	83%	CR-17% VGPR-11% PR-55%	Neuropathy.
Bortezomib, Doxorubicin, Dexamethasone	I/II	21	19 patients received 4 cycles	95%	CR-24% VGPR-33% PR-33% n CR-5%	Neuropathy, postural hypotension.
Bortezomib, Melphalan, Prednisolone	I/II	53	3	84%	CR-28% n CR-11% PR-45% MR-2%	Myelosuppression, Neuropathy.
Bortezomib, Thalidomide, Dexamethasone	I/II	36	No more than 2 cycles needed for response	92%	CR-19% PR-73%	Neuropathy, DVT infection.

**Table-3. Bortezomib with other therapeutic agents for relapsed and refractory disease[53], [57]–[68]**

Study drugs	Phase	No of assessable patients	Median no of prior agents	Median no of cycles	Major response rate (CR+PR)	Toxicities
Bortezomib, Cyclophosphamide, Dexamethasone	II	50	2	6	76%	Neuropathy, thrombocytopenia, Cardiovascular events.
Bortezomib, Cyclophosphamide, Prednisolone	I/II	15	All had atleast 1 prior autograft.	2 patients completed.	31%	Infections, hypophosphatemia Cytopenia.
Bortezomib, Thalidomide +/-, Dexamethasone	I/II	85	66% received 2 prior autografts.	2-12 cycles given.	71%	Myelosuppression, neuropathy.
Bortezomib +/-, Methyl prednisolone, (weekly dosing)	II	28	70% prior autografts.	5	59%	Neuropathy, congestive heart failure.
Bortezomib, Dose melphalan +/-, dexamethasone	I/II	16	3	4	50% ORR (75% with dex)	Neuropathy, thrombocytopenia, Neutropenia.
Bortezomib, Melphalan	I/II	34	3	15 patients completed 8 cycles.	47%	Myelosuppression, neuropathy.
Bortezomib, melphalan, prednisolone, thalidomide	II	20	55% received 2 prior therapies.	3	50%	Thrombocytopenia, febrile neutropenia, neuropathy.
Bortezomib, Lenalidomide +/-, Dexamethasone	I	17	7	4	59%	Thrombocytopenia, hyponatraemia, hypotension.
Bortezomib, pegylated liposomal	I	22 patients with	5 all patients.	4	73%	Myelosuppression, fatigue, neuropathy,

doxorubicin		myeloma				diarrhoea.
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### Regimens including carfilzomib or ixazomib for relapsed and/or refractory MM

Carfilzomib binds permanently to the 5 subunit of the constitutive proteasome and suppresses chymotrypsin-like action[69], [70]. It was recently shown that carfilzomib cardiotoxicity is related to the autophagy process and increase of protein phosphatase to 2A phosphatase activity and not with proteasome function suppression[71], [72].

**Table-4. Carfilzomib includes agents for relapsed and refractory disease[73]–[83]**

<b>Trials</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Patients</b>	<b>Over all response (CR)</b>	<b>Median PFS (months)</b>	<b>Median OS (months)</b>
ENDEAVOR (KD vs. VD)	III	929	77% vs. 63%	18.7 vs. 9.4	47.6 vs. 40.0
A.R.R.O.W. (weekly KD vs. twice weekly KD).	III	478	62.9% vs. 40.85% (7.1% vs. 1.7%)	11.2 vs. 7.6	(not reported)
ASPIRE (KRD vs. RD)	III	525	82% vs. 72% (16% vs. 8%).	26.3 vs. 17.6	48.3 vs. 40.4
DKD	Ib	85	84% (33%).	NR (74% and 66% at 12 and 18 months).	NR (82% at 12 months)
TOURMALINE MM1 (IRD vs. RD).	III	722	78% vs. 72% (12% vs. 7%).	20.6 vs.14.7	NR vs. NR

### Nuclear factor kappa B pathway

Bortezomib's ability to block NF- $\kappa$ B, a restating factor connected to inflammation, by stabilising its inhibitor I- $\kappa$ B was the first justification for its use in treating cancer[84]. In addition to controlling different immunological and inflammatory responses, NF- $\kappa$ B also plays a role in a number of tumour-related activities, including the inhibition of apoptosis and the stimulation of angiogenesis, proliferation, and migration[85]. As a result, NF- $\kappa$ B suppression might stop the release of IL-6, which causes normal B cells to differentiate to their terminal state and encourages the formation of MM cells[86]. Because bortezomib activates the canonical pathway, which in turn inhibits inducible NF- $\kappa$ B activity, bortezomib-induced



cytotoxicity cannot solely be attributed to the inhibition of canonical NF- $\kappa$ B activity in MM because both the canonical and non-canonical pathways must be inhibited to effectively block total activity[87]–[89].

### **Deubiquitinating enzyme novel inhibitors**

It is being looked into whether there are any new inhibitors that target the 20S proteasome's upstream DUBs or ubiquitin receptors. These substances could be able to overcome PI resistance. E3 ubiquitin ligases' adversaries are DUBs. These ubiquitinated protein-recognizers, which also function as proteases, remove the ubiquitin tags from the proteins[90]. The anti-apoptotic protein Mcl-1 is stabilised in MM cells by the ubiquitin-specific processing protease 9x, which are widely conveyed in these cells[91]. In MM cells, the Usp9x inhibitor WP1130 induces apoptosis and decreases Mcl-1 expression[92]. Usp24, which was raised as a result of Usp9x decrease, has been shown to be essential for the survival of myeloma cells[93]. Next, new 19S regulatory particle inhibitors are being researched. One of the 19S RP's lid subunits, Rpn11, gets rid of the polyubiquitin chains. Many cancer cells, includes bortezomib resistant cells, have demonstrated the activity of CZM[94]. Now, research is also being done on the other two Rpn11 inhibitors, O phenanthroline and thiolutin[95], [96]. We anticipate the results of these inhibitors' additional clinical investigations.

### **Neuropathy induction**

The most serious and frequent dose-limiting effect of PIs is peripheral neuropathy (PN). Current research on the pathophysiology and molecular basis of PN caused by bortezomib is inadequate. It has been discovered that bortezomib also inhibits the mitochondrial HtrA2/Oml ATP-dependent serine protease. Inhibition of HtrA2, which guards neurons against apoptosis, is now thought to be the root of PN in MM[97], [98]. Peptide epoxyketones, such as carfilzomib and oprozomib, exclusively block only Nterminal threonine active proteasome subunits, in contrast to bortezomib. Neutrophin dysregulation is a further suggested mechanism of bortezomib-induced PN generation because bortezomib inhibits NF- $\kappa$ B activation and hinders the transcription of nerve growth factor-mediated neuron survival[99].

### **Future outlooks**

As previously stated, triplet agents for MM containing of a PI, an IMiD, and dexamethasone has been studied. often it was used in the clinical setting. To increase the survival, individuals with MM who are eligible and ineligible for transplantation must achieve and sustain a deeper response. As previously stated, the data from Part 1 of the CASSIOPEIA research show that adding daratumumab to VTD has a therapeutic advantage in patients who are newly diagnosed MM and who are transplant candidates[100].

### **Conclusions**

Pis are a crucial tool for improving PFS and increase the quality of life and are having a greater impact, particularly in patient subspecies with poor prognoses. In terms of therapy effectiveness, acceptable tolerability, administration, and quality of life for MM patients, further development of is now being conducted to assess the effectiveness and safety of new combination regimens incorporating PIs and other innovative medicines

### **Abbreviations**

IV: intravenous, SC: subcutaneous, IC50: half maximal inhibitory concentration, CR-complete response; DVT- deep vein thrombosis; MR- minor response; n-CR – near complete response; ORR- over all response rate (CR+PR+MR); PR- partial response; VGPR-very good partial remission, CR-complete response; PR- partial response; MR- minor response; ORR-

overall response rate (CR+PR+MR), KD- carfilzomib + dexamethasone; VD- bortezomib + dexamethasone; RDlenalidomide + dexamethasone; KRD- carfilzomib + RD; DKD- daratumumab + KD; IRD- ixazomib + RD; ORR- overall response rate; CR- complete response; PFS- progression free survival; OS- overall survival; NR- not reached.

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