

# Evolutions in the Management of DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY: Treatment Implications for the Present and Future

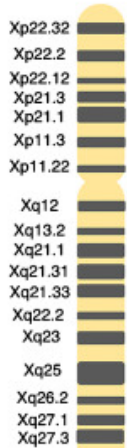
## RAPID RECAP

### Learning Objectives

- Describe the role of dystrophin disruption and restoration in the progression and management of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)
- Assess the latest clinical trial results across various treatment modalities for DMD
- Examine emerging approaches to DMD management that seek to align patient selection, treatment choice, and optimal initiation of therapy

### Dystrophin<sup>1,2</sup>

#### X-Chromosome

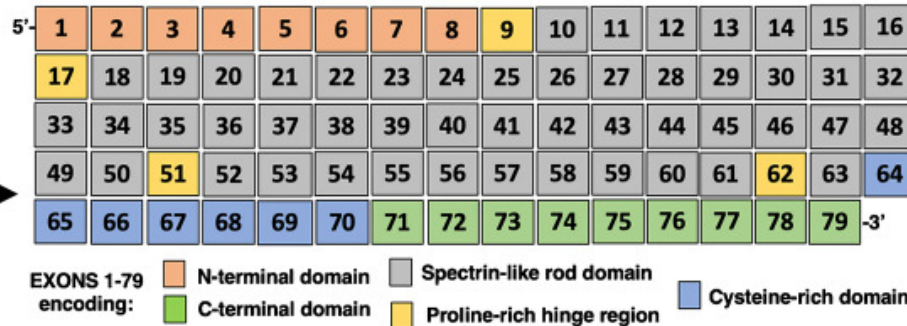


→ Xp21.2  
**DMD gene**  
2.4 million bases

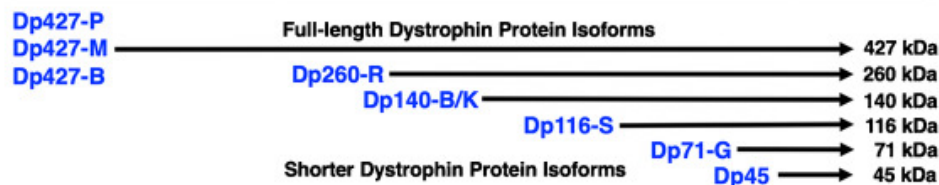
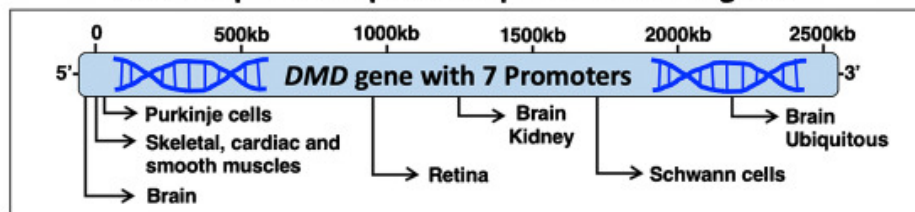
#### DMD mutations


- Large deletions
- Large duplications
- Small deletions
- Small insertions
- Splice site mutations
- Nonsense point mutations
- Missense point mutations
- Mid-intronic mutations

#### 79-exon spanning DMD gene



#### Tissue-specific expression pattern of DMD gene



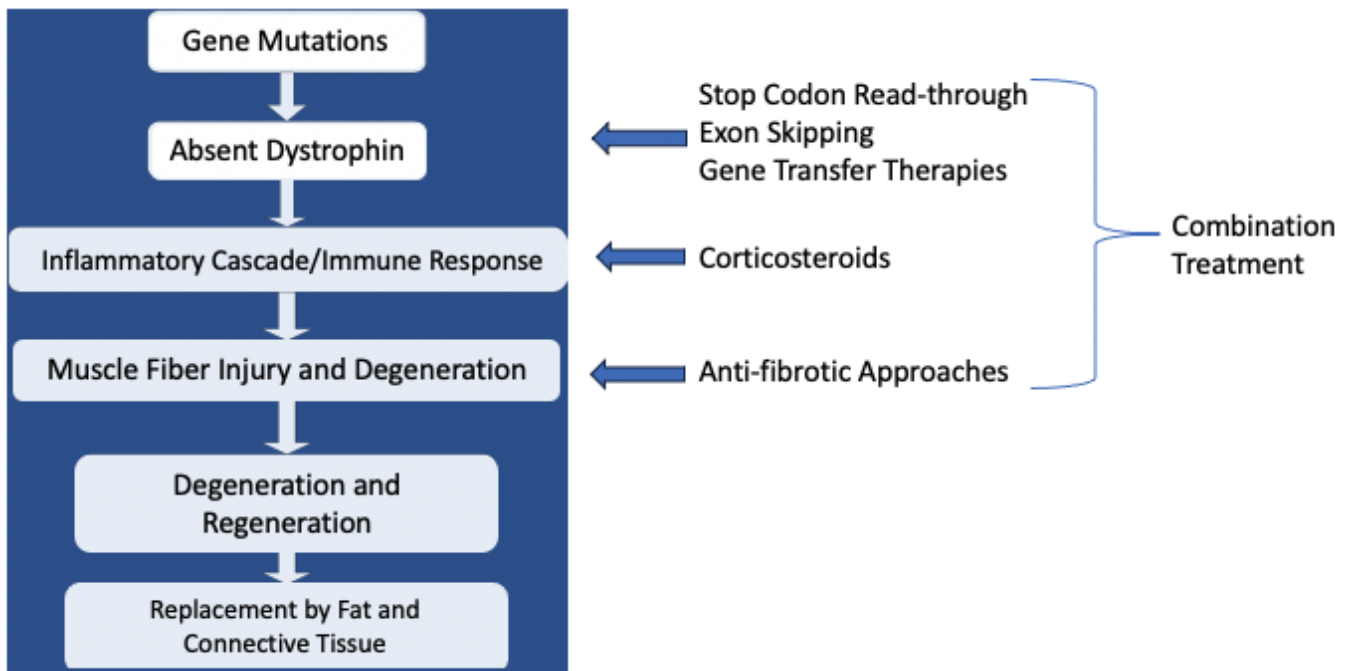



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### Therapeutic Strategies for DMD

Genetic supplementation of dystrophin utilizes gene therapy technology, including:<sup>3,4</sup>





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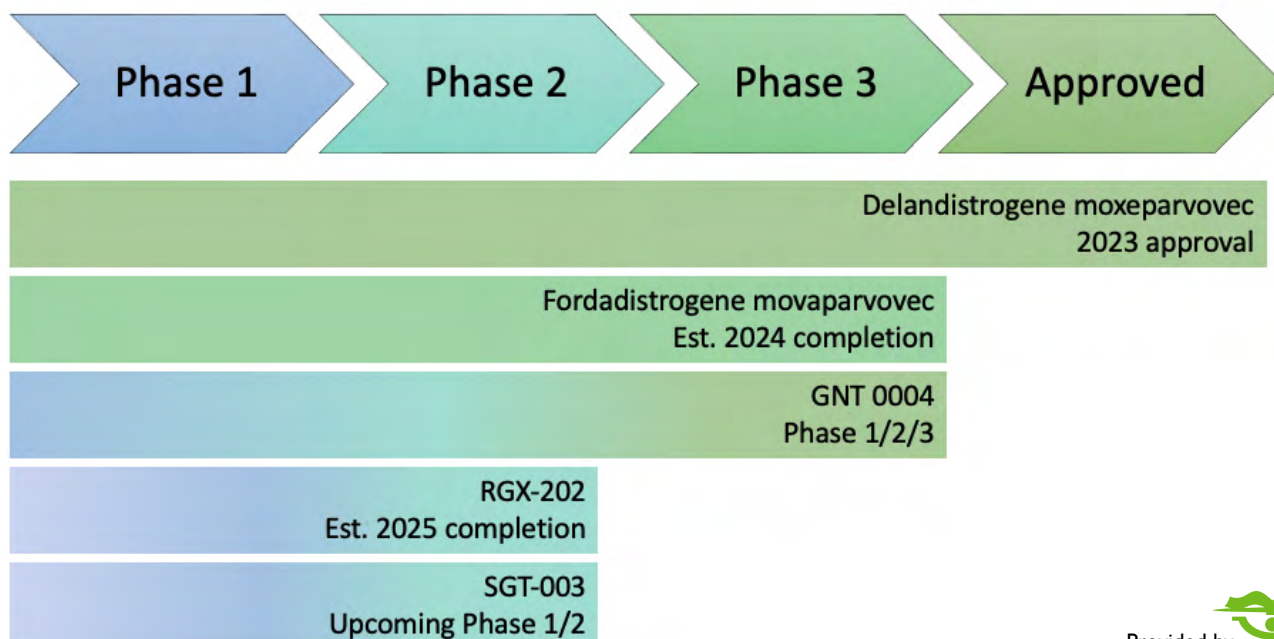
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### Dystrophin-restoring Therapies

#### Exon-Skipping Therapies<sup>4,5</sup>

<b>ETEPLIRSEN</b> Exon 51 2016 approval	<b>GOLODIRSEN</b> Exon 53 2019 approval	<b>VILTOLARSEN</b> Exon 53 2020 approval	<b>CASIMERSEN</b> Exon 45 2021 approval
<b>VESLETEPLIRSEN</b> Exon 51 Phase 2 (est. 2025 completion)	<b>PGN-ED051</b> Exon 51 Phase 2 (est. 2025 completion)	<b>AOC 1044</b> Exon 44 Phase 1/2 (est. 2025 completion)	<b>DS-5141</b> Exon 42 Phase 2 (est. 2027 completion)

#### Gene Therapies<sup>4,5</sup>






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### Pros and Cons of DMD Therapies<sup>4,5</sup>

Therapeutic Approach	Pros	Cons
<b>Glucocorticoids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicable to all patients with DMD, regardless of mutation</li> <li>• Prolonged time to loss of ambulation</li> <li>• Reduced requirement for scoliosis surgery</li> <li>• Improved cardiopulmonary function</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight gain</li> <li>• Changes in mood/behavior</li> <li>• Reduced bone health</li> <li>• Pubertal suppression</li> <li>• Adrenal insufficiency risk</li> <li>• Risk for cataracts</li> <li>• Frequent dosing (daily or intermittent)</li> </ul>
<b>Exon Skipping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prolonged time to loss of ambulation</li> <li>• Improved pulmonary function compared to natural history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires frequent dosing intravenously</li> <li>• Only applicable to a subset of patients (mutation specific)</li> <li>• Requires monitoring of renal function</li> <li>• Low dystrophin protein production on biopsy</li> </ul>
<b>Gene Transfer Therapy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal genetic restrictions (exclusion of only deletions of exons 8/9)</li> <li>• Significant microdystrophin protein production on biopsy</li> <li>• Improved functional outcomes</li> <li>• Single administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only FDA-approved currently for 4- to 5-year-old boys</li> <li>• Risk for hepatotoxicity, myocarditis, immune-mediated myositis, nausea/vomiting, thrombocytopenia, complement activation</li> <li>• Subset of patients will be excluded from treatment due to antibody positivity for vector</li> </ul>





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### Conclusions

- There are several approved therapies for DMD, including glucocorticoids, exon skipping, and gene transfer
- There are many therapeutics in the pipeline for DMD, including small molecules, cell-based treatments, more exon-skipping interventions, and gene transfer therapies
- Since each therapy is associated with specific risks and benefits, it is important to align patients, their medical history, and their specific goals with the right treatment
- The future will investigate the impact of combination therapies in patients with DMD. Preclinical and clinical studies are currently in progress

### References

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