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OP0254

A PROPENSITY SCORE-MATCHED (PSM) ANALYSIS OF ORGAN DAMAGE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) FROM THE POOLED BLISS LONG-TERM EXTENSION (LTE) TRIALS VERSUS THE TORONTO LUPUS COHORT (TLC)

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Background: A pooled analysis of the open-label BLISS LTE studies (BEL112233/BEL112234) reported low levels of organ damage accrual (measured by Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics [SLICC]/American College of Rheumatology Damage Index [SDI]) in patients who received belimumab (BEL) plus standard therapy (SoC) over a 5 year period. However, the LTE studies had no SoC arm. This post-hoc study (206347) used PSM to match BLISS LTE patients to TLC patients to define a SoC treatment comparison cohort.

Objectives: To assess damage accrual in patients with SLE treated with BEL plus SoC compared with PSM patients from the TLC treated with SoC alone.

Methods: This analysis compared the mean SDI change from baseline (over 5 years), time to SDI event (on all patients with ≥ 1 year follow-up), and magnitude of year-to-year SDI change (over 5 years), from baseline to Year 5 in patients treated with BEL plus SoC (pooled United States [US] and non-US data from the BLISS LTE studies), and SoC alone. Patients in the LTE and TLC were 1:1 PSM based on 16 clinical variables with a propensity score calliper $\pm 20\%$. Regression augmented inverse propensity score weighting (IPSW) tested the robustness of the PSM results.

Results: For the 5 year analysis, 181 LTE patients were matched to 181 TLC patients (mean bias 3.8%) from a larger pool of 973 patients (BLISS LTE n=592; TLC n=381). Time-to-event PSM resulted in 323 LTE and 323 TLC patients (mean bias 3.7%) from a larger pool of 1541 patients (BLISS LTE n=949; TLC n=592). The mean SDI score change from baseline in the BEL group was 0.265 (95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.180, 0.350) compared with 0.718 (95% CI: 0.547, 0.889) in the SoC group, resulting in a BEL treatment effect of -0.453 fewer SDI units (95% CI: -0.646, -0.260; $p < 0.001$) over 5 years compared with SoC alone. The IPSW model produced similar results (-0.374, 95% CI: -0.512, -0.236; $p < 0.001$). Patients treated with BEL were 60% less likely to progress to a higher SDI score over any given year of follow-up compared with SoC patients (hazard ratio 0.397, 95% CI: 0.275, 0.572; $p < 0.001$). A patient receiving BEL has a 3.1% annual probability of organ damage progression compared with a 7.5% annual probability with SoC. Among the 646 time-to-event matched patients, there were 49 increases in SDI over the first 5 years in the BEL group and 102 in the SoC group. Of these, 4.1% (n=2/49) of the BEL group had an SDI increase ≥ 2 compared with 25.5% (n=26/102) of the SoC group. Therefore, for patients who experienced any increase, the likelihood of experiencing a ≥ 2 point SDI increase was 6-times greater in the SoC group (25.5/4.1=6.22; $p = 0.002$).

Conclusions: This PSM analysis demonstrates that BEL plus SoC reduces, and slows the rate of organ damage progression and reduces the magnitude of progression compared with SoC alone.

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OP0255

IDENTIFICATION OF CLINICAL AND SEROLOGICAL PREDICTIVE FACTORS OF RESPONSE TO RITUXIMAB TREATMENT IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) PATIENTS

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Background: Response to Rituximab (RTX) varies significantly between SLE patients. Ethnicity may play a role in these differences, and a possible relationship has been suggested between the clinical response to RTX and the presence of certain auto-antibodies (ab) (anti-ENA and anti-dsDNA ab) and C3 levels at baseline.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify biomarkers that could predict the response to RTX treatment in SLE patients.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study of 121 SLE patients treated with RTX in UCLH between 2000 and 2016. Demographic, clinical and serological data were analysed. Disease activity was evaluated using the BILAG index. Patients were categorised as 'Responders' if all or some of the As and Bs from the BILAG score at the time the RTX was given were lost at 6 and at 12 months, and as 'Non-Responders' if none of the As and Bs were lost. Relapse after RTX treatment was defined as development of a new BILAG Grade A or B in any system. A uni and multivariate regression analysis were performed to identify predictive factors of response to RTX utilising a combination of clinical and biological markers.

Results: At 6 and at 12 months, 85% and 70% respectively of our patients had responded clinically to the RTX treatment. 24% of patients relapsed during the year after RTX. In the univariate analysis, constitutional symptoms at diagnosis (crude OR (95% CI): 5.66 (1.53–20.88), $p = 0.009$) and the absence of musculoskeletal disease at the time of RTX (0.27, (0.09–0.81), $p = 0.019$) were related to response at 6 months. In the multivariate analysis, both remained significant, (adjusted OR (95% CI)): 5.33 (1.39–20.41), $p = 0.014$ and 0.26 (0.08–0.81), $p = 0.021$ respectively. With respect to the response at 12 months, in the univariate analysis the presence of arthritis as the main indication for RTX (3.16 (1.31–7.58), $p = 0.010$), the absence of renal disease at diagnosis (0.36 (0.15–0.86), $p = 0.022$) and of cardiorespiratory disease at the time of RTX (0.29 (0.09–0.89), $p = 0.031$), less than one anti-ENA ab (0.28 (0.12–0.66), $p = 0.003$), low levels of C3 at diagnosis (0.29 (0.09–0.89), $p = 0.031$), increased anti-dsDNA ab levels (0.38 (0.17–0.89), $p = 0.025$) and decreased C3 levels (0.27 (0.11–0.63), $p = 0.002$) before RTX were related to the response. In the multivariate analysis, only the absence of more than one anti-ENA showed significance (0.30 (0.11–0.82), $p = 0.020$). Having more than one anti-ENA was related to relapse (3.30 (1.36–8.05), $p = 0.009$), while having arthritis as the main indication for RTX therapy was associated with a lower risk of flare (0.26 (0.10–0.64), $p = 0.004$). On the multivariate analysis, having arthritis remained significant (0.29 (0.11–0.75), $p = 0.010$).

Conclusions: There is a relation between the presence of more than one anti-ENA ab and a worse response to treatment at 12 months and a higher risk of flaring. Having arthritis at the time of RTX leads to a negative response at 6 months but a lower risk of flare before 1 year.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

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OP0256

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE REDUCES RISK OF INCIDENT DIABETES MELLITUS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN SYNDROME PATIENTS: A PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHED POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY

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Background: HCQ is an antimalarial drug that is widely prescribed for the treatment of Sjögren syndrome. Glucocorticoids may alter glucose metabolism and contribute to diabetes mellitus. Treatment for primary Sjögren syndrome (SS) sometimes requires glucocorticoids that may worsen glucose homeostasis. HCQ can reduce diabetes risk in SLE and RA.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the association of HCQ use and diabetes mellitus risk in primary SS patients.

Methods: This nationwide, population-based cohort study was conducted using the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. In the period 2002–13, 7311 newly diagnosed primary SS patients were identified after excluding those with a previous diagnosis of RA, SLE or diabetes mellitus. The propensity score matched 4874 patients with at least 6 month hydroxychloroquine exposure after diagnosis and 2437 patients without. Incidence of diabetes mellitus was identified as a new diagnostic code using a diabetes mellitus-specific medication.

Results: Four hundred and ninety-seven newly diagnosed diabetes mellitus patients were identified among primary SS patients (4874 had taken HCQ and 2437 had never taken HCQ), with an average follow-up period of 4.9 years. Compared with patients without HCQ treatment, the hazard ratio (HR) of diabetes