have a poor renal prognosis. Early subtypes classification is mandatory for the clinician to provide prompt and appropriate management of this life-threatening complication.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2018-eular.6871

FRIDAY, 15 JUNE 2018

SLE, Sjögren's and APS – treatment

FRI0303

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF USTEKINUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS OF A PHASE 2, RANDOMISED PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY

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Background: IL12 and IL23 have been linked to SLE pathogenesis.

Objectives: The anti-IL12/23 monoclonal antibody ustekinumab (UST) was evaluated in pts with active SLE.

Methods: We conducted a Ph2, PBO-controlled study in 102 pts with active SLE. Pts were randomised(3:2) to UST IV~6 mg/kg or PBO at wk0, followed by UST SC 90 mg or PBO injections q8w, both added to standard care. Primary endpoint was proportion of pts achieving SLE responder index(SRI)–4 response at wk24. Secondary endpoints were change from baseline(BL) in SLEDAI-2K, PGA and BICLA response. Additional pre-specified endpoint analyses included no BILAG worsening(defined as no new BILAG A and ≤1 new BILAG B) and BILAG flare (≥1 new BILAG A or ≥2 new BILAG B).

Results: SRI-4 response occurred in 60% UST vs 31% PBO pts(p=0.005) at wk24 (table 1). UST pts had greater median change from BL in SLEDAI-2K and PGA vs PBO. No difference was observed in BICLA response at wk24; however, in the UST group vs PBO, more pts had no BILAG worsening, and the risk of a new BILAG flare was significantly lower(HR 0.11 [95% CI 0.01–0.94];p=0.0078). UST demonstrated improvement in musculoskeletal and mucocutaneous disease features vs PBO (table 1). Through wk24, 78% UST vs 67% PBO pts had ≥1 AE; 8.3%–9.5%, respectively, had ≥1 SAE; there were no deaths. The overall safety profile was comparable between UST and PBO.

Abstract FRI0303 – Table 1. Efficacy Results at Wk 24.

	PBO	UST
Pts randomised, n	42	60
SRI-4 response, n (%)	13 (31.0)	36 (60.0)
P value		0.005 ^a
Change from baseline SLEDAI-2K, median (range)	–2.0 (–20; 10)	–6.0 (–10; 3)
P value		0.026 ^{a,b}
Change from baseline PGA, median (range)	–1.6 (–5.6; 2.7)	–2.5 (–6.6; 2.8)
P value		0.211 ^{a,b}
BICLA response, n (%)	14 (33.3)	21 (35.0)
P value		0.994 ^a
Pts with no BILAG worsening, n/N (%)	11 (26.2)	29 (48.3)
P value		0.028
Pts with ≥50% improvement from baseline in joint activity ^c , % (95% CI)	63.2 (61.7–64.6)	87.7 (86.8–88.6)
P value		0.021 ^d
Pts with ≥50% improvement from baseline in CLASI activity score ^e , % (95% CI)	25.2 (23.1–27.4)	58.7 (57.4–60.1)
P value		0.043 ^e

^aPrespecified analyses; all other analyses were post-hoc.

^bOne-sided test for no difference between treatment groups using a Wilcoxon non-parametric median test for difference of location

^cPt subpopulation (67% of total) with ≥4 active joints at baseline

^dPt subpopulation (58% of total) with baseline CLASI activity score ≥4

^eProportion of responders and p values based on mITT analysis using a multiple imputation model for missing data from wks 16 to 24

BICLA, BILAG-based Combined Lupus Assessment; BILAG, British Isles Lupus Assessment Group; CLASI, Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index; SLEDAI-2K, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000 PGA, physician's global assessment

Conclusions: UST treatment showed efficacy in pts with active SLE and was well-tolerated. UST may work via a novel mechanism of action in SLE.

Disclosure of Interest: R. van Vollenhoven Grant/research support from: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, B. Hahn Grant/research support from:

Janssen Research and Development, LLC, G. Tsokos Grant/research support from: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, C. Wagner Employee of: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, P. Lipsky Grant/research support from: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, B. Hsu Employee of: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, M. Chevrier Employee of: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, R. Gordon Employee of: Janssen Research and Development, LLC, M. Triebel Employee of: Janssen Biologics, S. Rose Employee of: Janssen Research and Development, LLC

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2018-eular.1734

FRI0304

LONG-TERM AND LOW-DOSE IL-2 THERAPY MAINTAINS THE TH17/TREG BALANCE IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME

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Background: Primary Sjögren's syndrome (pSS) is a chronic autoimmune disease mainly affecting exocrine glands. To date, evidence-based guidelines for the management of pSS are lacking. Regulatory T cells (Tregs) are crucial in maintaining immune tolerance and immune homeostasis, but their role in pSS is unclear. Furthermore, low-dose Interleukin-2 (IL-2) has been shown considerable curative effect on expansion of (Tregs) in patients with GVHD. However, the effects of low-dose IL-2 on Tregs and Th17 cells in pSS are not fully elucidated.

Objectives: To explore the long-term effects of low dose IL-2 on Treg cells, Th17 cells and the ratio of them in peripheral blood of Chinese Han patients with primary Sjögren's syndrome.

Methods: A total of 190 pSS patients consented at enrollment to donate PB samples for comprehensive immune-phenotyping. In the study, BD Trucount tubes with the lyophilized pellet of a known number of internal counting beads were used for determining absolute counts of total CD4⁺ T cells in PB and then calculating the absolute number of Th17 cells and CD4⁺Tregs. Eighty eight in 190 were given low-dose recombination human IL-2 (rhIL-2, 2.50 WIU/day for 5 days and then 50WIU/w for several months) by hypodermic injection combined with standard therapy, which includes glucocorticoid, immune-suppressants, biological agents or combination of them, while others (12 in 69) were given standard therapy only.

Results: (¹The absolute number of Treg cells decreased significantly in peripheral blood of pSS patients compared with that of healthy control.²After short period therapy of low dose rhIL-2, Treg cells increased rapidly in one week but decreased to a lower level after one month[20.91 (9, 31.75) vs. 130.31 (65.18, 170.12) vs. 30.37(, ^{16, 44} p<0.01]. At the same time the ratio of Th17/Treg cells decreased rapidly in one week but increased to a higher level after one month[0.23 (0.19, 0.33) vs. 0.09 (0.04, 0.18) vs. 0.18 (0.14, 0.69), p<0.1].³Long-term IL-2 could maintain the higher level of CD4⁺Treg cells and the balance of Th17/Treg.⁴Patients with balanced Th17/Treg have more obvious improvement of symptoms and more significantly decreased dose of glucocorticoid and HCQ compared with standard therapy group.

Abstract FRI0304 – Figure 1. The change of absolute numbers of Treg cells (A) and the ratio of Th17/Treg (B) after short-term and low-dose IL-2 therapy. (A) Absolute number (cells/μl) of Treg cells increased rapidly 7 days after IL-2 therapy but decreased to a lower level after 30 days. (B) Ratio of Treg cells decreased rapidly 7 days after IL-2 therapy but increased to a higher level after 30 days. Data are presented as median (Q1, Q3). Statistical analysis was performed using the Related Samples Friedman's Two-Way Analysis of Variance by Ranks. * P<0.05, ** P<0.01, *** P<0.001 vs. Healthy controls. Asymptotic significances (2-sided tests) are displayed. The significance level is p<0.05.

Conclusions: Therapy of low dose rhIL-2 could promote the proliferation of Treg cells and rebuild the balance of Th17/Treg for both short and long term. To rebuild