

and ACR70. The safety and tolerability profile was consistent with observations in the Phase 2 studies with UPA.

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OP0037

EFFICACY OF TOFACITINIB AFTER TEMPORARY DISCONTINUATION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM OPEN-LABEL LONG-TERM EXTENSION STUDIES

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Background: Tofacitinib is an oral Janus kinase inhibitor for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Given the chronic nature of RA, there may be situations when therapy is temporarily discontinued. It is important to understand loss of response during temporary discontinuation and the ability to regain disease control following treatment reinitiation. Re-establishment of tofacitinib efficacy following temporary discontinuation/reinitiation has been previously demonstrated in patients (pts) with RA participating in the vaccine sub-study of the long-term extension (LTE) study ORAL Sequel.¹

Objectives: To further assess tofacitinib efficacy and safety after temporary discontinuation and reinitiation in pts with RA in LTE studies.

Methods: Data were pooled from two open-label LTE studies (NCT00413699 [database lock: March 2017] and NCT00661661) of pts with RA who had completed qualifying Phase 1/2/3 index studies. Pts received tofacitinib 5 or 10 mg twice daily as monotherapy or with conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. Pts who received continuous tofacitinib for ≥ 4 months, temporarily discontinued tofacitinib for 14–30 days and then resumed treatment were included in the analysis. Efficacy outcomes were analysed at the pre-interruption visit (≤ 90 days before discontinuation) and at the post-interruption visit (within 14–42 days of resuming treatment); data from the interruption period were not analysed. Efficacy outcomes included: ACR20/50/70 response rates, mean tender and swollen joint counts, mean C-reactive protein levels and mean DAS28–4 (ESR), CDAI, HAQ-DI, Patient Global Assessment of arthritis, Pain and Physician Global Assessment of arthritis scores. Safety was analysed from Day 1 of temporary discontinuation to the post-interruption visit and included adverse events (AEs), serious AEs (SAEs) and discontinuations due to AEs that occurred within the time range.

Results: 261 pts met the criteria for temporary discontinuation. Median (range) duration of temporary discontinuation was 19^{14–30} days. Pt demographics are shown in table 1. Efficacy outcomes were generally similar at pre- and post-interruption visits (table 2). From Day 1 of discontinuation to the post-interruption visit, AEs, SAEs and discontinuations due to AEs occurred in 142 (54.4%), 29 (11.1%) and 4 (1.5%) pts, respectively.

Abstract OP0037 – Table 1 Patients demographics and baseline disease characteristics¹

	All tofacitinib (N=261)
Age (years), mean (SD)	53.7 (11.3)
Sex, n (%)	
Female	224 (85.8)
Race, n (%)	
White	173 (66.3)
Black	7 (2.7)
Asian	63 (24.1)
Other	18 (6.9)
BMI (kg/m ²), mean (SD)	26.8 (6.4)
Duration of disease (years), mean (SD)	9.4 (8.2)
TJC, mean (SD)	25.1 (15.2)
SJC, mean (SD)	15.4 (8.6)
CRP (mg/L), mean (SD)	20.6 (23.9)
DAS28-4(ESR), mean (SD)	6.4 (1.0)
CDAI, mean (SD)	36.6 (12.1)
HAQ-DI, mean (SD)	1.5 (0.7)
PtGA, mean (SD)	60.4 (22.1)
Pain-VAS, mean (SD)	58.8 (23.3)
PGA, mean (SD)	61.1 (16.9)
Background csDMARD use, n (%) ^b	181 (69.3)

¹Baseline values were those of the index study if patients began LTE study treatment ≤ 14 days from the last tofacitinib dose in the index study. Otherwise, LTE baseline values were used; ^bAt LTE baseline

BMI, body mass index; CDAI, Clinical Disease Activity Index; CRP, C-reactive protein; csDMARD, conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; DAS28-4(ESR), Disease Activity Score in 28 joints, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; HAQ-DI, Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index; LTE, long-term extension; PGA, Physician Global Assessment of arthritis; PtGA, Patient Global Assessment of arthritis; SD, standard deviation; SJC, swollen joint count; TJC, tender joint count; VAS, visual analogue scale

Abstract OP0037 – Table 2 Efficacy endpoints at the pre-interruption visit (≤ 90 days before temporary discontinuation) and post-interruption visit (within 14–42 days of resuming treatment)

	All tofacitinib (N=261)	
	Pre-interruption visit	Post-interruption visit
ACR20, % (95% CI)	75.5 (69.8, 80.6)	74.3 (68.6, 79.5)
ACR50, % (95% CI)	54.4 (48.2, 60.6)	51.0 (44.7, 57.2)
ACR70, % (95% CI)	31.8 (26.2, 37.8)	31.4 (25.8, 37.4)
TJC, mean (95% CI)	6.1 (4.9, 7.2)	8.0 (6.4, 9.6)
SJC, mean (95% CI)	3.4 (2.8, 4.1)	5.0 (3.9, 6.2)
CRP (mg/L), mean (95% CI)	0.48 (0.38, 0.58)	0.46 (0.37, 0.56)
DAS28-4(ESR), mean (95% CI)	3.6 (3.4, 3.7)	3.9 (3.7, 4.0)
CDAI, mean (95% CI)	10.0 (8.9, 11.1)	11.8 (10.3, 13.2)
HAQ-DI, mean (95% CI)	0.94 (0.85, 1.03)	0.98 (0.88, 1.07)
PtGA, mean (95% CI)	28.4 (25.8, 31.0)	29.3 (26.6, 32.1)
Pain (VAS), mean (95% CI)	28.1 (25.4, 30.8)	28.8 (26.0, 31.7)
PGA, mean (95% CI)	17.1 (15.3, 18.9)	18.0 (16.0, 19.9)

Median (range) time from the pre-interruption visit to Day 1 of temporary discontinuation was 43 (0–90) days and the median (range) time from resuming treatment to the post-interruption visit was 28 (14–42) days

N is the total number of patients in the analysis; the number of patients evaluable for each endpoint may be fewer than N

ACR, American College of Rheumatology; CDAI, Clinical Disease Activity Index; CI, confidence interval; CRP, C-reactive protein; DAS28-4(ESR), Disease Activity Score in 28 joints, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; HAQ-DI, Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index; PGA, Physician Global Assessment of arthritis; PtGA, Patient Global Assessment of arthritis; SJC, swollen joint count; TJC, tender joint count; VAS, visual analogue scale

Conclusions: In pts with RA who temporarily discontinued tofacitinib, similar efficacy responses were observed at pre- and post-interruption visits, suggesting that there is no loss of efficacy after temporary withdrawal and reinitiation of tofacitinib. The safety profile was consistent with previous tofacitinib reports in LTE studies over 9 years.²

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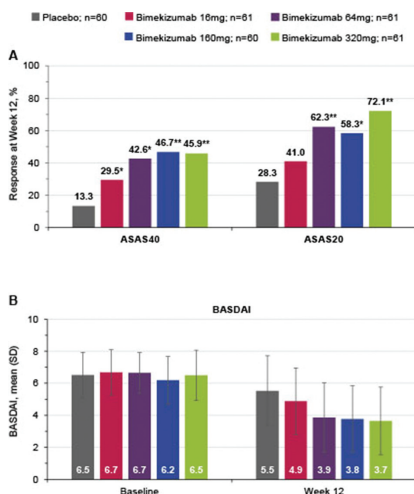
LB0001

DUAL NEUTRALISATION OF IL-17A AND IL-17F WITH BIMEKIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS (AS): 12-WEEK RESULTS FROM A PHASE 2B, RANDOMISED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, DOSE-RANGING STUDY

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Background: Dual neutralisation of IL-17F, in addition to IL-17A, reduces inflammation¹ to a greater extent than inhibition of IL-17A alone in disease-relevant cell models. Bimekizumab, a monoclonal antibody that potently and selectively neutralises both IL-17A and IL-17F, provided rapid and substantial clinical improvements in studies evaluating patients with psoriasis² and psoriatic arthritis.¹

Objectives: Assess 12 week efficacy and safety of bimekizumab in patients with active AS; the primary objective was to assess the ASAS40 dose-response relationship at Week 12.



*p<0.05, **p<0.001; calculated from a logistic regression model including fixed effects for treatment, geographic region and prior anti-TNF exposure
 A: non-responder imputation, full analysis set; B: observed data, full analysis set

Abstract LB0001 – Figure 1 A) non-responder imputation, full analysis set; B) observed data, full analysis set

Methods: In this ongoing 48 week study (NCT02963506: double blind to Week 12 then dose blind to Week 48), 303 patients with active (BASDAI ≥ 4 ; spinal pain ≥ 4 [0–10 numerical rating scale]) AS, fulfilling the modified New York criteria, were randomised 1:1:1:1:1 to receive subcutaneous bimekizumab 16 mg, 64 mg, 160 mg, 320 mg or placebo Q4W, for 12 weeks. Prior exposure to 1 anti-TNF therapy was permitted. The primary endpoint was ASAS40 response rate at Week 12. Secondary endpoints (ASAS20 and ASAS5/6 response rate and change from baseline in BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP at Week 12) and safety were also assessed.

Results: Overall, 297 (98.0%) patients completed the 12 week double-blind period. The majority of patients were male (84.5%) with a mean (SD) age of 42.2 (11.8) and median (min, max) symptom duration of 13.3 (0.3, 48.2) years; baseline characteristics were similar among treatment groups (median [min, max] hs-CRP: 12.1 [0.3, 130.6] mg/L; mean [SD] BASDAI: 6.5 [1.4]; ASDAS-CRP: 3.9 [0.8]; prior anti-TNF exposure: 11.2%). At Week 12, there was a significant (p<0.001) dose-response for ASAS40. A greater percentage of bimekizumab-treated patients achieved ASAS40 (primary endpoint) than placebo (Figure: p<0.05, all doses). More patients receiving bimekizumab than placebo also achieved ASAS20 (figure 1; p<0.05, 64 mg–320 mg doses) and ASAS5/6 (16mg: 29.5%; 64 mg: 39.3%; 160 mg: 50.0%; 320 mg: 52.5%; placebo: 5.0%; p<0.05, all comparisons). Compared with placebo, greater reductions from baseline were achieved with bimekizumab for both BASDAI (figure 1) and ASDAS-CRP (LS mean [SE] change from baseline: 16 mg: -1.0 [0.15]; 64 mg: -1.6 [0.15]; 160 mg: -1.4 [0.16]; 320 mg: -1.5 [0.16]; placebo: -0.4 [0.16]; p<0.001, all doses). The overall incidence of TEAEs was 86/243 (35.4%) for bimekizumab-treated patients versus 22/60 (36.7%) for placebo. No unexpected safety risks were observed; the most frequently reported events were nasopharyngitis and headache.

Conclusions: The primary and key secondary objectives were achieved; dual neutralisation of IL-17A and IL-17F with bimekizumab provided clinically meaningful improvements in disease outcome measures. No new safety signals were observed versus previous studies.^{1,2}

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Doctor, how bad will my rheumatoid become? RA – prognosis, predictors and outcomes

OP0038

DOSE TAPERING AND DISCONTINUATION OF BIOLOGICAL THERAPY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN REMISSION IN ROUTINE CARE – 2-YEAR OUTCOMES AND IDENTIFICATION OF PREDICTORS

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Background: A cohort of routine care rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients in sustained remission had biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) tapered according to a treatment guideline. Little is known about predictors of successful tapering and discontinuation of bDMARDs.

Objectives: We studied: 1) the proportion of patients whose bDMARD could be successfully tapered or discontinued; 2) unwanted consequences of tapering/discontinuation; 3) potential baseline predictors of successful tapering and discontinuation.