52.7% (r-axSpA/AS: 52.6%; nr-axSpA: 52.9%) had inactive disease (ASDAS<1.3; LOCF; Table B). The treatment-emergent adverse event (TEAE) rate/100 patient-years' exposure was 224.2; 3.9% patients discontinued CZP due to TEAEs. No new safety signal was identified.

Conclusion: The run-in phase of C-OPTIMISE shows that similar and continued CZP due to TEAEs. No new safety signal was identified.

Table A: Baseline Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>r-axSpA/AS (n=40)</th>
<th>nr-axSpA (n=40)</th>
<th>r-axSpA/AS (n=40)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years, mean [SD])</td>
<td>52.7±14.0</td>
<td>52.7±14.0</td>
<td>52.7±14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (67.5)</td>
<td>27 (67.5)</td>
<td>27 (67.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spondylo-arthritis duration (years, mean[SD])</td>
<td>22.7±14.1</td>
<td>22.7±14.1</td>
<td>22.7±14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive (n, %)</td>
<td>59 (81.3)</td>
<td>59 (81.3)</td>
<td>59 (81.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacroiliac x-ray imaging, n (%) [4]</td>
<td>65 (93.3)</td>
<td>65 (93.3)</td>
<td>65 (93.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior use of TNF-inhibitors (n, %)</td>
<td>13 (20.0)</td>
<td>13 (20.0)</td>
<td>13 (20.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B) Clinical Outcomes

Table B (ASDAS<1.3; LOCF; Friday, 14 June 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>r-axSpA/AS</th>
<th>nr-axSpA</th>
<th>r-axSpA/AS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>BL</td>
<td>WKS</td>
<td>BL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDA/VIDAAL</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: Robert B.M. Landewé: None declared, Désirée van der Heijde Consultant for: Abbvie, Amgen, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi, Takeda, Union Chimique Belge, maxime dougados Consultant for: Abbvie, Amgen, Amgen, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pli, Abbvie, and UCB Pharma Consultant for: Eli Lilly and Company, Pfizer, Abbvie, and UCB Pharma, Xenon Baraliakos Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Merck Sharp & Dohme, UCB Pharma, Novartis, Consultant for: Abbvie, Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Chugai, Janssen Biologics, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Galapagos, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biogen, Chugai, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Filian van den Bosch Consultant for: Abbvie, BMS, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Karl Gaffney Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Pfizer, Consultant for: Abbvie, Lilly, Novartis, UCB, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biogen, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, UCB, Natasha de Peyrecave Employee of: UCB Pharma, Lars Bauer Employee of: Employee of UCB Pharma, Bengt Hoepken Employee of: Employee of UCB Pharma, Karen Thomas Employee of: Contracted Statistician of UCB Pharma., Lianne S. Gensler Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, UCB Pharma, Consultant for: Novartis, Lilly, Janssen


Background: Radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (r-axSpA) is a chronic inflammatory disease of the axial skeleton, and interleukin (IL)-17 plays an important role in the pathogenesis. Elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) levels in serum predict response to tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi), but not to secukinumab. The role of baseline spine magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) as a predictor of response has not been investigated for IL-17 inhibitors.

Objectives: To evaluate response rates at week (wk) 16 with ixekizumab (IXE), an IL-17A antagonist, in patients with anklyosing spondylitis (AS)/r-axSpA and elevated or normal/low inflammation as measured by CRP or spinal MRI.

Methods: Two Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo (PBO)-controlled trials (COAST-V, NCT02696785; COAST-W, NCT02696798) enrolled patients who were biologic-naïve or TNFi-experienced, respectively, with active disease (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index [BASDAI]>4 and spinal pain ≥4 on a numeric rating scale) and an established diagnosis of r-axSpA and fulfilling Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) criteria (sacroiliitis on radiograph by modified New York [mNY] criteria and ≥1 spondyloarthritis feature). All patients fulfilling ASAS criteria also fulfilled mNY criteria for AS. Patients were treated with IXE (80 mg every 2 or 4 wks [Q2W, Q4W]) or PBO; adalimumab (40 mg Q2W) was an active reference arm in COAST-V. We examined ASAS 40% (ASAS40) response rates at wk 16 for the intent-to-treat population by CRP (>5 mg/L) or MRI spine inflammation (SpondyloArthritis Research Consortium of Canada [SPARCC] spine score, <2 or ≥2). Baseline spine MRI was available in 96% of patients in COAST-V and 51% of patients in COAST-W; scoring was done by central readers. Higher scores reflect greater baseline disease activity. Sacroiliac joint MRIIs were not assessed. Missing data for ASAS40 were imputed by nonresponder imputation.

Results: In the COAST-V/W integrated dataset that combined biologic-naïve and TNFi-experienced populations, significantly more patients treated with IXE achieved ASAS40 response at wk 16 than with PBO in the elevated (>5 mg/L) baseline CRP group (39.3%, 42.5%, and 16.7% for IXE Q4W, IXE Q2W, and PBO, respectively; p<.05 for IXE vs PBO) and in the normal (<2 or <5 mg/L) baseline CRP group (27.4%, 30.7%, and 11.1% for IXE Q4W, IXE Q2W, and PBO, respectively; p<.05 for IXE Q4W, Q2W vs PBO, Fig 1), and the magnitude of response with IXE increased with higher baseline CRP levels (Fig 1) and for patients with a higher ASAS40 rate/C21. The treatment-emergent adverse event (TEAE) rate/100 patient-years' exposure was 224.2; 3.9% patients discontinued CZP due to TEAEs. No new safety signal was identified.

Figure 1: COAST-V/W Integrated Response Rate (ASAS40) at Wk 16
Conclusion: IXE demonstrated rapid efficacy in the treatment of AS/r-axSpA at wk 16 irrespective of baseline serum CRP levels or spinal MRI score.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Walter P. Maksymowych Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Pfizer, Novartis, Consultant for: Abbvie, Boehringer, Celgene, Lilly, Pfizer, UCB, Speakers bureau: Honoraria from Abbvie, Boehringer, Celgene, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB for speaking events but I am not in any speaker's bureau., Gaia Gallo Shareholder of: Eli Lilly and Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Rebecca Bolce Shareholder of: Eli Lilly and Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Fangyi Zhao Shareholder of: Eli Lilly and Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Vladimir Geneus Shareholder of: Eli Lilly and Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Mikkel Stergaard Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Celgene, Centocor, Merck, Novartis, Consultant for: Abbvie, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Hospira, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, and UCB, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Hospira, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Novo, Orion, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, and UCB, Kurisu Tada Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Atul Deodhar Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Lieonne S. Gensler Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, UCB Pharma , Consultant for: Novartis, Lilly, Janssen


Infliximab trough levels and disease activity predict early clinical response in patients with axial spondyloarthritis

ANA MARTINEZ-FEITO1, Chaimada Plascencia2, Bojia Hernandez-Breijo2, Victoria Navarro-Compan1, Diana Peiteado2, Alejandro Villalva2, Laura Nuño2, Irene Monjo2, Cristina Diego1, Dora Pascual-Salcedo2, Alejandro Balsa2, 1Hospital La Paz-madrid, Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 2Hospital La Paz-madrid, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3IDiPaz, Immuno-Rheumatology research group, Madrid, Spain

Background: Infliximab (IFX) has proven to be effective in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Several variables may affect pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic of IFX and its relation with clinical response, such as: disease activity (inflammatory burden), the development of anti-drug antibodies (ADA) and the concomitant use of conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. The improvement of patient’s management by achieving optimal serum drug concentration associated with good clinical response is the main goal of therapeutic drug monitoring (which can be helpful in the prediction of clinical response to biological treatment).

Objectives: To identify clinical and serological variables at early stages of treatment that can predict clinical response in patients with axSpA treated with IFX.

Methods: Observational study including 81 patients with axSpA recruited from the axSpA-Paz cohort treated with IFX and monitored during 24 weeks (W). Serum IFX levels and ADA were measured by capture ELISA and by bridging ELISA respectively at baseline, W2, W6, W14 and W24. Disease activity was assessed at baseline and W24 by the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) and clinical response was defined by ΔASDAS<1.1 (clinically important improvement). The association between clinical response at W24 and clinical and serological variables was evaluated by univariable and multivariable logistic regression analyses. The serum IFX trough level at W2, W6 and 14 as a categorical variable (above or under the corresponding median value of levels at each time week), age, sex, HLA-B27, methotrexate (MTX), sulfasalazine, body mass index, smoke status, prednisone, C-reactive protein and ASDAS at baseline were included as independent variables. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves for the outcome of clinical response after 24 weeks of treatment were employed to determine the best cut-off values for the predictors (serum IFX concentrations and baseline ASDAS). IFX survival was evaluated through Kaplan-Meier curves.

Results: In the univariable analyses, higher serum IFX trough levels at W14 (OR: 3.9; 95%CI: 1.5-10.4); higher baseline ASDAS (OR: 1.9; 95%CI: 1.1-3.3); and MTX (OR: 3.3; 95%CI: 1.2-8.7) were associated with a better clinical response at W24. Patients with concomitant MTX had higher serum IFX trough levels (median and IQR) than patients without MTX and these differences were significant at W6: 26.37(16.4-44.1) versus 16.9(11.4-26.9); p=0.008; at W14: 8.4(5.4-13.9) versus 4.1(1.8-7.8); p=0.003 and at W22: 5.1(2.8-8.3) versus 3.1(0.6-5.4); p=0.006 and; respectively. In the multivariable analysis, higher ASDAS at baseline (OR: 1.8; CI 95%: 1.1-3.0) higher serum IFX trough levels at W14 (OR: 3.6; CI 95%: 1.3-10.4) remained significantly associated. Serum IFX concentration at W14 > 6.7 μg/mL and a disease activity score at baseline > 3.5 were found to be associated with higher ΔASDAS at W24 (OR: 6; 95%CI: 3.6-71.7). No patient with IFX levels at W14 > 6.7 μg/mL developed ADA during the 24 weeks follow up. The combination of both variables was used to create the clinical response with a sensitivity of 87.5%, specificity of 69.6%, PPV of 75% and NPV of 84.2%.

Conclusion: Elevated baseline ASDAS and high serum IFX trough levels at W14 are associated with better clinical response at 24 weeks in patients with axSpA under IFX therapy. A predictive model based on these variables is suggested to identify early responders to IFX treatment.


LONG-TERM SAFETY OF IXEKIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH RADILOGIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPATHY/ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: AN INTEGRATED ANALYSIS OF COAST-V AND COAST-W

Helena Marzo-Ortega1, Eduardo Mylär2, Tetsuya Tomita3, Jeffrey Lisse4, Silvia Santisteban5, Sandra Garces4, Wen Xu6, Martin Rudwaleit7, Carlo Salvarani2, Sergio Schwartzmann1, 1NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and LURMPM, Univ of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Organización Médica de Investigación, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 3Osaka Univ Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan; 4Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, United States of America; 5Klinikum Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany; 6Azienda USL-IRCCS and Univ di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 7The Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, United States of America

Background: The efficacy and safety of ixekizumab (IXE) in patients with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (r-axSpA) were investigated in the COAST trials program.

Objectives: To report the long-term safety of IXE in r-axSpA patients using integrated safety data from the COAST trials program.

Methods: Safety data for IXE-treated patients with r-axSpA included in COAST-V (biologic-naïve; NCT02696785) and COAST-W (inadequate responders or intolerant to 1 or 2 TNF inhibitors; NCT02696798) studies. Patients fulfilled ASAS criteria for r-axSpA and mNY criteria for ankylosing spondylitis. Trial eligibility criteria were previously reported.1,2 In these studies, patients were randomized to placebo (n=191), adalimumab (n=90, active reference arm, COAST-V only), or ixekizumab (n=376). Study participants initially randomized to IXE in both trials were treated with a starting dose (80 mg or 160 mg) and then 80 mg IXE every 2 weeks (IXE2Q2W) or 4 weeks (IXE4Q4W). Patients initially treated with placebo or adalimumab were re-randomized at Week 16 to receive either IXE2Q2W or IXE4Q4W following a sublingual starting dose. The analysis population included all ixekizumab-exposed patients in both trials. Incidence rates (IR) per 100 person years with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and the number of patients are reported. Adverse Event (AE) codes were derived from MedDRA (v21.0). Integrated safety data presented here include all data collected between May 6, 2016 and Sept 20, 2018.

Results: The integrated population consisted of 641 patients with 749.6 total patient-years of exposure to IXE. Mean follow up time was 427 days. Mean baseline age was 43.8±12.3 years. Mean and median baseline disease symptom duration (since onset) were 17.2±10.8 years and 15.5 years (Min: 1.1, Max: 56.2), respectively. Safety data are presented in Table 1. Among these patients, 489 (76.3%) reported ≥1 treatment