Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory disease that mainly affects the axial skeleton. Bone loss reflected by low bone mineral density (BMD) during follow-up visits compared to baseline. Significant improvement compared to the previous time point was found up to and including 4 years for the lumbar spine and up to and including 2 years for the hip. Thereafter, flattening of improvement was observed. Median percentage of improvement in absolute BMD after 8 years of TNF-α blocking therapy compared to baseline was 7.1% (IQR 0.8-13.5) for the lumbar spine and 16% (IQR -3.5-5.5) for the hip (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In AS patients with established disease, both lumbar spine and hip BMD improved significantly at group level during 8 years of TNF-α blocking therapy. This effect was more pronounced in the lumbar spine, which corresponds to the disease process in AS. Main improvements in lumbar spine BMD were observed during the first 4 years of treatment.

References:

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THU0377 IMPACT OF FILGOTINIB ON STRUCTURAL LESIONS IN THE SACROILIAC JOINTS AT 12 WEEKS IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING DATA FROM THE DOUBLE-BLIND, RANDOMIZED TORTUGA TRIAL

W. P. Makowski1, M. Østergaard2, R. B. M. Landewé3, W. Baruch4, K. Liu4, C. Tasset5, L. Gilles5, T. Hendriks6, R. Besuyu X. Baraliakos4, M. Siderius1,2, F. Wink1,2, A. Spoorenberg3, S. Arends1,2

Background: Filgotinib, an oral selective Janus kinase (JAK) 1 inhibitor, reduced disease activity and improved symptoms and inflammation of the sacroiliac joint (SIJ) and spine in patients with active ankylosing spondylitis (AxSpA) in the Phase 2 TORTUGA trial (NCT03117270). The effects of JAK inhibitors on structural lesions in active AxSpA are unknown and optimal methods for imaging analysis of structural disease progression are not established.

Objectives: The aim of this post hoc analysis was to evaluate the effects of filgotinib on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) measures of structural changes in the SIJ in patients from the TORTUGA trial, as assessed by Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada (SPARC) SIJ Structural Scores (SSS) compared to baseline. The effects of JAK inhibitors on structural lesions in active AxSpA are unknown and optimal methods for imaging analysis of structural disease progression are not established.

Methods: TORTUGA was a multicenter, double-blind, randomized trial of 116 patients with AS (n=113). Box-and-whisker plots (Tukey) box indicate medians with interquartile ranges. * indicates mean; whiskers indicate 1.5 times interquartile distances; † indicates outliers.

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