discontinuation was 7 (range: 2-56) and 10 (range: 2-48), respectively. Pre-infusion steroids were re-started in 3 patients after a rise in sUA, with 1 regaining sUA response (patient 2) and 2 discontinuing therapy (patients 4 and 9). An additional patient had a loss of sUA response (patient 7) and discontinued, 1 patient discontinued due to hospitalization (patient 6), and 1 patient chose to discontinue therapy (patient 8). At the time of data collection, 4 patients remained on therapy (patients 1-3, 5). Eight patients had at least one AE (all deemed unrelated to treatment), including influenza, hypertensive crisis, and toe amputation. No IRs occurred.

Conclusion: In this case series, 8 of 9 patients received 6 months or more (≥ 12 infusion) of pegloticase. These cases suggest that pre-infusion GC discontinuation may be possible in some patients treated with pegloticase (particularly those over 70 years). Further investigation exploring this concept is warranted, including evaluating the optimal time and conditions to discontinue pre-infusion GCs with pegloticase.

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Figure. Pegloticase infusions administered with and without pre-infusion IV methylprednisolone at time of data collection

*patient administered oral methotrexate before and during pegloticase therapy.
Patients 4, 7, and 9 (ages 65-67) discontinued due to loss of sUA response.

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AB0629

ACCURACY OF SYNOVIAL FLUID ANALYSIS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE CRYSTALS: AN ANCILLARY STUDY OF OMERACT CRITERION VALIDITY STUDY FOR ULTRASOUND IN CPPD

A. Adinolfi¹, S. Sirotti², M. Gutierrez³, C. Pineda³, D. Clavijo Cornejo³, T. Serban⁴, A. Dumitru⁵, A. Scanu⁶, M. A. D'agostino⁷, H. Keen⁸, L. Terslev⁹, P. Sarzi-Puttini², C. A. Scirè¹⁰, A. Iagnocco¹¹, G. Filippou² on behalf of Omeract Ultrasound working group, subgroup CPPD.

¹ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda, Rheumatology Unit, Milan, Italy; ²Luigi Sacco University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Milan, Italy; ³Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitacion, Division of Musculoskeletal and Rheumatic Diseases, Mexico City, Mexico;

⁴Ospedale La Colletta, ASL3 Genovese, Rheumatology Department, Genoa, Italy; ⁵Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Department of Pathology, Bucharest r, Romania; ⁶University of Padova, Department of Medicine-DIMED, Rheumatology Unit, Padova, Italy; ⁷Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCSS, Rheumatology Department, Rome, Italy;

⁸The University of Western Australia, Medicine and Pharmacology Department, Murdoch, Perth, Australia; ⁹Copenhagen University, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; ¹⁰Società Italiana di Reumatologia, Epidemiology Research Unit, Milan, Italy; ¹¹Università degli Studi di Torino,

Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, Torino, Italy

Background: Synovial fluid analysis (SFA) via compensated polarized light microscopy is still considered the gold standard for the identification and diagnosis of Calcium Pyrophosphate Deposition disease (CPPD)-related arthropathies[1], but very few studies have been published about its diagnostic accuracy.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the accuracy of SFA in the identification of calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate (CPP) crystals compared to microscopic analysis of joint tissues as the reference standard.

Methods: This is an ancillary study of an international, multicentre cross-sectional study performed by the CPPD subgroup of the OMERACT Ultrasound working group[2]. Consecutive patients with knee osteoarthritis (OA) waiting for total knee replacement surgery were enrolled in the study from 2 participating centres, Mexico and Romania. During surgical procedures synovial fluid (SF), menisci and hyaline cartilage were collected and analysed within 48 hours after surgery under transmitted light microscopy and compensated polarised light microscopy for the presence/absence of CPP crystals. All slides were analysed by expert examiners on site, blinded to other findings. A dichotomic score (absence/presence) was used for scoring both SF and tissues. Microscopic analysis of knee tissues was considered the gold standard. Sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, positive and negative predictive values (PPV and NPV) of SFA in the identification of CPP crystals were calculated.

Results: 15 patients (53% female, mean age $68\text{yo} \pm 8.4$) with OA of grade 3 or 4 according to Kellgren-Lawrence scoring were enrolled. 12 patients (80%) were positive for CPP crystals at SFA and 14 (93%) at tissues microscopic analysis. Among 12 SFA positive patients, all were positive for CPP crystals in either medial or lateral meniscus, and 11 were positive in both; 10 patients were positive at the hyaline cartilage, and all 10 were also positive for at least one meniscus. Regarding the 3 SFA negative patients, only one had no crystals in the examined tissues, while the other 2 patients had CPP crystals in both menisci and hyaline cartilage. The overall diagnostic accuracy of SFA compared to histology analysis for CPPD was 87%, with a sensitivity of 86% and a specificity of 100%, the PPV was 100% and the NPV was 33% (Table 1).

Table 1. sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV) and diagnostic accuracy of synovial fluid analysis compared to the reference standard. CI: Confidential Interval. SF: synovial fluid, in parentheses: numerators and denominators for all percentages provided.

	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy
SF analysis	86% (12/14) (0.65-0.99) CI 95%	100% (1/1) (0.0-0.25) CI 95%	100% (12/12) (0.65-0.99) CI 95%	33% (1/3) (0.0-0.25) CI 95%	87% (13/15)

Conclusion: SFA demonstrated to be an accurate test for the identification of CPP crystals in patients with advanced OA. However, is not always feasible and carries some risks for the patient. Considering the availability of validated imaging techniques for the detection of CPPD, such as US, SFA could be used in those patients where imaging and clinical data are not definitely confirmatory of the disease.

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AB0630

PEGLOTICASE/METHOTREXATE CO-THERAPY IMPROVED JOINT AND PATIENT-REPORTED HEALTH ASSESSMENTS IN PATIENTS WITH UNCONTROLLED GOUT: 12-MONTH EXPLORATORY OUTCOMES OF THE MIRROR OPEN-LABEL TRIAL

J. Botson¹, P. M. Peloso², K. Obermeyer², B. Lamoreaux³, L. Zhao², M. E. Weinblatt⁴, J. Peterson⁵. ¹Orthopedic Physicians Alaska, Medical,

Anchorage, United States of America; ²Horizon Therapeutics plc, Research and Development, Deerfield, United States of America; ³Horizon Therapeutics plc, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America; ⁴Brigham and Women's Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy, Boston, United States of America; ⁵Western Washington Medical Group, Arthritis Clinic, Bothell, United States of America

Background: Gout development follows persistent serum uric acid (sUA) elevation. Patients who are refractory to or cannot tolerate oral urate lowering therapies (ULTs) have limited treatment options. Pegloticase is effective in treating refractory gout, but many patients develop anti-drug antibodies (ADAs), which are associated with loss of urate-lowering efficacy¹⁻³ and infusion reactions (IRs).^{1,2} In phase 3 trials, the pooled pegloticase responder rate during Months 3 and 6 combined was 42% (8mg infusion every 2 weeks), with high-titer ADA positive patients losing efficacy prior to 6 months.¹ The 6-month results from the MIRROR open-label trial (79% response rate [11/14], 95%CI 49-95%)⁴ suggest that methotrexate (MTX) administered in conjunction with pegloticase increases treatment responder rate.

Objectives: To examine longer-term (12-month) exploratory endpoints from the MIRROR open-label trial, including joint, overall health, and gout global assessments. Serial dual-energy computed tomography (DECT) images were also examined when available.

Methods: Adult patients with uncontrolled gout (sUA ≥ 6 mg/dL with ≥ 1 of the following: sUA ≥ 6 mg/dL despite ULT use, intolerance to ULT, or functionally limiting tophaceous deposits) were included. Patients with immunocompromised status, G6PD deficiency, severe renal impairment, or MTX contraindication were excluded. Patients were administered oral MTX (15 mg/week) and folic acid (1 mg/day) 4 weeks prior to and throughout pegloticase therapy (8 mg biweekly infusion for up to 52 weeks). Exploratory outcomes included mean change from baseline (CFB) in number of affected joints (tophi, swollen, tender), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) scores (Disability Index [DI]; score 0–3), Pain [score 0–100], Health [score 0–100], and Gout Global Assessments (Patient, Physician; score 0–10). A decrease in these measures reflects clinical/patient-reported health improvement. Change in urate deposition volume, as measured on DECT imaging, was also examined as available. Analyses were performed on the modified intent-to-treat (mITT) population (≥ 1 pegloticase infusion received).

Results: 14 patients (all male, mean $\pm$ SD age: 49.3 $\pm$ 8.7 years) made up the mITT population. Mean $\pm$ SD sUA prior to pegloticase treatment was 9.2 $\pm$ 2.5 mg/dL and 13 patients had visible tophi. 3 patients discontinued due to 2 consecutive sUA levels >6 mg/dL and 1 patient completed the study at week 24 (pre-protocol amendment extending treatment from 24 to 52 weeks). 10 patients completed the 52-week study. Of these, 8 patients received 26 infusions and 2 patients received 12 infusions, discontinued pegloticase after meeting their treatment goal at 24 weeks, and started allopurinol while remaining in study under observation. At week 52 (n=10, sUA=1.1 $\pm$ 2.5 mg/dL), the number of affected joints improved, along with HAQ measures (Figure 1). Global Assessments of Gout also improved (Physician: CFB=5.7 $\pm$ 2.6, Patient CFB=-4.6 $\pm$ 2.1) and majority of subjects had a score of 0 or 1 (0="excellent health") at week 52 (Physician: 0.3 $\pm$ 0.5, Patient: 1.1 $\pm$ 1.3). Two patients had available DECT imaging. One received pegloticase/methotrexate co-therapy thru week 52 and had a marked reduction in total urate volume (baseline: 128.76 cm³, week 52: 1.33 cm³). The other received only 5 pegloticase infusions, but also showed total urate volume reduction (baseline: 59.20 cm³, week 10: 25.07 cm³). Both patients displayed improvement in bone erosion healing.

Conclusion: These 12-month exploratory endpoints of the MIRROR open-label trial suggest that MTX/pegloticase co-therapy results in meaningful changes in clinical evaluations (tophaceous, tender, and swollen joint counts), and patient-reported outcomes (pain, disability) in patients with uncontrolled gout.

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Figure. Summary of gout clinical assessments and patient-reported outcomes. Data represent mean values and error bars represent standard error. Patients were co-treated with pegloticase/methotrexate for up to 52-weeks (light blue bar; 52 weeks in 8 patients, 24 weeks in 2 patients). Week 64 and 76 represent the 3 and 6 month follow-up visits, respectively. DECT imaging shows progressive urate volume decrease in this knee (BL: 22.6 cm³, Week 52: 0.1 cm³) and bone erosion healing concomitant with clinical improvement. BL, baseline; HAQ, health assessment questionnaire; DI, disability index.

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