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OP0141 EFFECTS OF FILGOTINIB ON SPINAL LESIONS IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING DATA FROM THE TORTUGA TRIAL

X. Baraliakos1, M. Östergaard2, R. B. M. Landewé2, W. Bachurk3, K. Liu4, C. Tassell5, L. Gilles6, T. Hendriks7, R. Besuyu8, W. F. Maksymowych9, 1Ruhr-University Bochum, Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Henne, Germany; 2University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3Maastricht University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 4Gilead Sciences, Inc., Inflammation Clinical Research, Foster City, United States of America; 5Gilead Sciences, Inc., Biostatistics, Foster City, United States of America; 6Galapagos NV, Late Stage Development, Mechelen, Belgium; 7Galapagos NV, Clinical Research, Mechelen, Belgium; 8Galapagos BV, Medical Affairs, Leiden, Netherlands; 9Galapagos BV, Clinical Research, Leiden, Netherlands; 10University of Alberta, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Edmonton, Canada

Background: The oral Janus kinase 1 preferential inhibitor filgotinib (FIL) significantly improved Spondyloarthriasis Research Consortium of Canada (SPARC) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) inflammation scores (bone marrow oedema) in the spine and sacroiliac joints vs placebo (PBO) in the Phase 2 TORTUGA trial (NCT03117270) in patients with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS).1

Objectives: This post-hoc analysis evaluated the effects of FIL on Canada-Denmark (CANDEN) MRI measures of spinal inflammation and structural lesions in patients from the TORTUGA trial.

Methods: TORTUGA was a PBO-controlled, multicentre, double-blind, randomised trial. Patients with active AS (as per modified New York classification criteria, with sacroilitis confirmed by central reading) were treated with FIL 50 mg (n=58) or PBO (n=58) once daily for 12 weeks. MRI of the total spine was conducted at baseline and at treatment end. Scans were re-evaluated post-hoc by 2 independent experts (blinded to time point and assigned treatment) using the CANDEN method;2 inter-reader discrepancies were resolved by an independent adjudicator. Observed changes from baseline were evaluated using analysis of covariance, with factors for treatment, baseline value, and randomisation stratification by prior tumour necrosis factor inhibitor use. Observed changes from baseline were evaluated using analysis of covariance, with factors for treatment, baseline value, and randomisation stratification by prior tumour necrosis factor inhibitor use. Least-squares (LS) mean changes from baseline and between-group differences with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated; P values are nominal.

Results: MRI scans from 88 patients (47 FIL, 41 PBO) with an evaluable scan at baseline and Week 12 (or early termination) were re-evaluated. Baseline characteristics were generally similar between patients with/without an MRI scan. Of those with MRI scans, mean total spine inflammation score (which ranges from 0–614) was higher, and mean ankylosis score (which ranges from 0–460) was lower, in the FIL vs PBO group at baseline. Total spine inflammation scores decreased from baseline with FIL but not with PBO (Figure and Table; P=0.0003 for between-group difference). Cumulative probability plots favoured FIL over PBO for change from baseline in subregion inflammation scores, including postero-lateral elements (i.e. sum of lesions in ribs, transverse processes, spinous processes, soft tissue inflammation, and postero-lateral vertebral body), facet joint, and vertebral body. Total spine fat lesion scores numerically increased from baseline in the FIL but not PBO group (P=0.0878 for between-group difference; Table). There were no significant differences for groups in changes for erosion (P=0.1956) or ankylosis (P=0.3888) scores (Table).

Table 1. Change from baseline at Week 12 in CANDEN total spine inflammation, total spine fat, total spine bone erosion, and ankylosis scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment group</th>
<th>Sample mean (SE)</th>
<th>LS mean (SE)</th>
<th>95% CI of between-group difference</th>
<th>LS mean (SE)</th>
<th>95% CI of between-group difference</th>
<th>Between-group difference</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total spine inflammation score</td>
<td>Filgotinib 47 (0.96)</td>
<td>Placebo 41 (0.78)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>–0.09, 0.09</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total spine erosion score</td>
<td>Filgotinib 47 (0.62)</td>
<td>Placebo 41 (0.02)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>–0.02, 0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total spine ankylosis score</td>
<td>Filgotinib 47 (0.29)</td>
<td>Placebo 41 (0.03)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>–0.09, 0.05</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: This is the first PBO-controlled trial to demonstrate a decrease in inflammatory activity with FIL, not only in the spinal vertebrae but also in the postero-lateral elements of the spine and facet joints. As expected in a 12-week study period, no changes in erosion or ankylosis were seen, while fat lesions showed a tendency to increase with FIL. Larger trials are needed to confirm these results.

REFERENCES:

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Scientific Abstracts

Landewé Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen (formerly Centocor), Merck, Pfizer, Roche, Schering and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Ablynx, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Roche, Schering, Tigagen and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen (formerly Centocor), Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Schering and UCB, Employee of: Director of Rheumatology Consultancy BV, William Barchuk Shareholder of: Gilead Sciences, Inc., Employee of: Current employee of Gilead Sciences, Inc.; and former employee of AbbVie, Eli Lilly and Johnson & Johnson, Ke Liu Shareholder of: Gilead Sciences, Inc., Employee of: Gilead Sciences, Inc., Chantal Tasset Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Leen Gilles Employee of: Galapagos, Thijs Hendrikx Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Robin Besuyen Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Walter P Maksymowycz Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Employee of: Chief Medical Officer of CARE Arthritis Limited

**TRIAL OF SUBANALYSIS OF PHASE 3 ASTERA STUDY**

**OP0142**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Netakimab Reduces Ankylosing Spondylitis Activity in Patients With or Without Sacroiliitis on MRI: Results of Subanalysis of Phase 3 ASTERA Trial</th>
</tr>
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</table>

1Mechnikov North-Western State Medical University, Department of Therapy and Rheumatology of Temporary Disability and Medical Care Quality Expertise, St-Petersburg, Russian Federation; 2Clinical Rheumatology Hospital No 25, Consultative Outpatient Department, St-Petersburg, Russian Federation; 3Nasonova Research Institute of Rheumatology, Laboratory of Spondyloarthritides, Moscow, Russian Federation; 4Nasonova Research Institute of Rheumatology, Laboratory of Medical and Social Problems of Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 5Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Department of Cardiology and Rheumatology, Minsk, Belarus; 6Belarusian State Medical University, Department of Internal Diseases No2, Minsk, Belarus; 7JSC BIOCAD, Clinical Development Department, St-Petersburg, Russian Federation

**Background:** The presence of sacroiliitis in patients (pts) with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) on imaging can be established both by sacroiliac joint (SIJ) X-ray or MRI. Active sacroiliitis on MRI as defined by ASAS as predictor of good treatment response to biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs [1, 2]. Netakimab (NTK) is a humanized anti-interleukin-17A antibody approved for the treatment of AS, psoriatic arthritis, moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis in Russia and Belarus. The difference in treatment response to NTK in AS pts with and without active sacroiliitis on MRI (MRI+ vs MRI−) is unclear.

**Objectives:** To report the changes in AS activity in pts with and without sacroiliitis on MRI at week 16 of NTK treatment.

**Methods:** ASTERA (NCT03447704) is an ongoing phase 3 placebo (PBO)-controlled clinical study, aimed at evaluating NTK efficacy in AS. All pts fulfilled modified New York criteria. Evaluation of acute inflammation on SIJ MRI was performed at the baseline but was not an inclusion criterion. This analysis includes pts received subcutaneous NTK 120 mg every 2 wks with available baseline SIJ MRI. The presence of sacroiliitis on MRI was defined as SPARCC ≥2. Efficacy endpoints included ASAS20/40, ASAS partial remission (PR), changes from baseline in BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP as SPARCC Disease Activity Score.

**Results:** 67 MRI+ and 46 MRI− pts were included into analysis. Baseline characteristics were balanced across both arms. 42.4% of MRI+ pts and 38.3% of MRI− pts achieved ASAS40 at week 16 (p>0.05). ASAS20 was observed in 65.2%/55.3% pts in the same arms respectively (p>0.05). ASAS PR was reported for 15.2% MRI+ and 17.0% MRI− pts (p>0.05). Improvements in BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP were similar across both arms. At wk 16, mean change from baseline in BASDAI was −2.7 vs −3.0 for MRI+ and MRI− pts respectively, mean change in ASDAS-CRP was −1.7 vs −1.4 in the same arms (p>0.05 for all), (figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Clinical improvements in AS disease activity. Mean change from baseline is shown for (A) ASDAS-CRP, and (B) BASDAI

**Conclusion:** NTK leads to decline of disease activity in AS pts irrespectively of sacroiliitis on MRI.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** This study was sponsored by JSC BIOCAD.

**OP0143**

**Impact of Adalimumab Versus Non-Biologic Therapy on Disease Activity and Patient-Reported Outcomes in Ankylosing Spondylitis Over 24 Months – Results of the Complete-AS Canadian Observational Study**

| L. Bassette1, A. Chow1, V. Pavlova2, M. C. Laliberté3, M. Khareshi3. |

1Laval University, Centre Hospitaller de l’Université Laval, Laval University, Centre Hospitaller de l’Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada; 2University of Toronto, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada; 3McMaster University, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada; 4AbbVie Corporation, AbbVie Corporation, Montreal, Canada; 5Memorial University of Newfoundland, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, Canada

**Background:** COMPLETE-AS was an observational study among Canadian biologic-naïve adults with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) treated with either adalimumab or subsequent non-biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs and/or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (nsDMARD/NSAID) after having switched from initial treatment with a preceding nbDMARD and/or NSAID due to lack of response or intolerance, as per treating physician’s judgement.