Rheumatoid arthritis - non biologic treatment and small molecules

POS0663 **THE USE OF EXPOSURE-ADJUSTED EVENT RATES VERSUS EXPOSURE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES IN ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING: INSIGHTS FROM FILGOTINIB INTEGRATED SAFETY DATA IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

P. Durez[1], E. Feist[2], R. Blanco[3], V. Rajendran[4], N. Verbruggen[5], K. Van Beneden[6], J. Galloway[7]. [1]*Institute de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique (IREC), Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc - Université Catholique de Louvain, Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium;* [2]*Helios Clinic Vogelsang-Gommern, Cooperation Partner of the Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg, Department of Rheumatology, Magdeburg, Germany;* [3]*Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology Division, Santander, Spain;* [4]*Galapagos NV, Clinical Development, Mechelen, Belgium;* [5]*Galapagos NV, Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium;* [6]*Galapagos NV, Medical Affairs, Mechelen, Belgium;* [7]*King's College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom*

Background: Reporting of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) clinical trials can be summarized as exposure-adjusted incidence rates (EAIRs) or exposure-adjusted event rates (EAERs). Censored EAIR (EAIR), weighing exposure up to a patient's first event, is commonly reported; uncensored EAIR (EAIRu), using total exposure time for all patients, can also be used. For EAIR, exposure time can vary by event. In contrast to EAIR(u), the total number of events are used to calculate EAER. The three methods account for different exposures and/or multiple events, which can impact the outcome evaluation. Studies of filgotinib (FIL) in RA[1] report safety data as EAIR/100 patient-years of exposure (PYE) for TEAEs, which is uncensored.

Objectives: To describe the outcome of long-term FIL integrated safety data in RA by applying different statistical methodologies: EAER, EAIRu and EAIR.

Methods: Integrated FIL safety data from seven clinical trials were assessed[1]. Predefined adverse events of special interest (AESI) included serious infections (any), herpes zoster (HZ), major adverse cardiac events (MACE), malignancies (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer [NMSC]), NMSC and venous thromboembolism (VTE). The number of patients with an event, number of events, EAER, EAIRu and EAIR were summarized. The data extraction date was January 2021 for the DARWIN 3 (NCT02065700) long-term extension (LTE) and November 2020 for the FINCH 4 (NCT03025308) LTE.

Results: In total, 3691 patients received ≥1 FIL dose for 8085 PYE. In this population, 176 serious infections were reported in 137 patients, 125 HZ events were reported in 112 patients, 39 MACE were reported in 33 patients, 20 cases of VTE were reported in 15 patients, 60 malignancies excluding NMSC were reported in 49 patients and 21 cases of NMSC were reported in 20 patients. Within each treatment arm (FIL 200 mg [FIL200], FIL 100 mg [FIL100] or combined FIL), rates for most AESI were similar when reported as EAER, EAIRu or EAIR (Table 1). For serious infections, EAER was higher than EAIRu or EAIR. The total exposure time to first event (censored PYE) was high and comparable to total exposure (PYE) (>2700 years and >5100 years for the total populations in the FIL100 and FIL200 groups, respectively).

Table 1. Exposure-adjusted event and incidence rates for AESI

		FIL200	FIL100	FIL combined
Number of patients/PYE		2267/5302.5	1647/2782.6	3691/8085.1
Serious infections	EAER	1.9 (1.5, 2.4)	3.2 (2.2, 4.5)	2.0 (1.7, 2.4)
	EAIRu	1.5 (1.1, 1.9)	2.7 (1.9, 3.9)	1.6 (1.3, 2.0)
	EAIR	1.5 (1.2, 1.9)	2.8 (1.9, 4.0)	1.7 (1.4, 2.0)
HZ	EAER	1.6 (1.3, 2.1)	1.3 (0.9, 1.8)	1.5 (1.2, 1.8)
	EAIRu	1.5 (1.2, 2.0)	1.1 (0.8, 1.5)	1.4 (1.1, 1.7)
	EAIR	1.6 (1.2, 2.0)	1.1 (0.8, 1.6)	1.4 (1.1, 1.7)
MACE	EAER	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.6 (0.4, 1.0)	0.4 (0.3, 0.6)
	EAIRu	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.5 (0.3, 0.8)	0.4 (0.2, 0.6)
	EAIR	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.5 (0.3, 0.9)	0.4 (0.2, 0.6)
VTE	EAER	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.1 (0.1, 0.4)	0.2 (0.2, 0.4)
	EAIRu	0.2 (0.1, 0.4)	0.1 (0.1, 0.4)	0.2 (0.1, 0.3)
	EAIR	0.2 (0.1, 0.4)	0.1 (0.1, 0.4)	0.2 (0.1, 0.3)
Malignancies excluding NMSC	EAER	0.8 (0.5, 1.1)	0.8 (0.5, 1.2)	0.7 (0.2, 2.8)
	EAIRu	0.6 (0.4, 0.9)	0.6 (0.4, 1.0)	0.6 (0.4, 0.8)
	EAIR	0.6 (0.4, 0.9)	0.6 (0.4, 1.0)	0.6 (0.4, 0.8)
NMSC	EAER	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.2 (0.1, 0.5)	0.3 (0.2, 0.4)
	EAIRu	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.2 (0.1, 0.4)	0.2 (0.2, 0.4)
	EAIR	0.3 (0.2, 0.5)	0.2 (0.1, 0.4)	0.2 (0.2, 0.4)

Data are rate (95% CI) unless otherwise stated.

Conclusion: These data confirm that using different methods to analyze FIL safety data (EAER, EAIRu, EAIR) does not result in different safety outcomes, reinforcing the previously reported FIL safety profile in patients with RA. As the AESI reported in the long-term safety database with FIL are rare, patients commonly have long exposure times before experiencing an event, which are often associated with end of treatment. As such, EAIRu, EAIR and EAER are similar.

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POS0664 **RADIOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND ESTIMATED BASELINE YEARLY PROGRESSION ≥5 OR <5: POST HOC ANALYSIS OF TWO PHASE 3 TRIALS OF FILGOTINIB**

Y. Tanaka[1], T. Atsumi[2], D. Aletaha[3], R. B. M. Landewé[4], B. Bartok[5], A. Pechonkina[6], Z. Yin[7], L. Han[7], K. Emoto[8], S. Kano[8], V. Rajendran[9], T. Takeuchi[10]. [1]*University of Occupational and Environmental Health, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan;* [2]*Hokkaido University, Department of Rheumatology, Endocrinology and Nephrology, Hokkaido, Japan;* [3]*Medical University of Vienna, Division of Rheumatology. Department of Medicine, Wien, Austria;* [4]*Amsterdam Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology Center (amC) & Zuyderland MC, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands;* [5]*Gilead Sciences, Inc., Department of Clinical Research, Foster City, United States of America;* [6]*Gilead Sciences, Inc., Department of Clinical Research, Foster City, United States of America;* [7]*Gilead Sciences, Inc., Biostatistics, Foster City, United States of America;* [8]*Gilead Sciences K.K., Medical Affairs, Tokyo, Japan;* [9]*Galapagos BV, Inflammatory Diseases, Mechelen, Belgium;* [10]*Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan*

Background: In some patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), especially those with joint damage early in the disease, first-line methotrexate (MTX) treatment may not suffice to prevent further rapid radiographic progression (RRP).[1] In FINCH 1 (NCT02889796), filgotinib 200 mg (FIL200) and 100 mg (FIL100) reduced change in modified total Sharp score (mTSS) vs placebo (PBO) in pts with RA and inadequate response to MTX (MTX-IR).[2] In FINCH 3 (NCT02886728), FIL200 and FIL100 reduced change in mTSS vs MTX monotherapy (MTX mono) in MTX-naïve pts.[3]

Objectives: To evaluate, via post hoc analysis of 2 trials, filgotinib's effects on radiographic progression vs MTX mono in pts with estimated baseline (BL) yearly progression ≥5 or <5 mTSS units/year.

Methods: The double-blind 52-week (W) FINCH 1 study randomised MTX-IR pts with moderate–severe active RA to FIL200 or FIL100, subcutaneous adalimumab (ADA) 40 mg, or PBO; at W24, PBO pts were rerandomised blinded to FIL200 or FIL100; all took stable background MTX.[2] In FINCH 3, MTX-naïve pts were randomised, blinded, to FIL200 + MTX, FIL100 + MTX, FIL200 alone, or MTX mono for up to W52.[3] This analysis examined subgroups by estimated BL yearly progression (BL mTSS/duration in years of RA diagnosis), based on ≥5 or <5 mTSS units/year,[4] a threshold commonly used to define RRP. We assessed effects of filgotinib vs ADA or PBO in mTSS change from BL (CFB) at W24/W52 (using a mixed model for repeated measures) and percentages with no W24 progression (mTSS change ≤0, ≤0.5, ≤smallest detectable change [SDC], using Fisher's exact test).

Results: At BL, 558/1755 MTX-IR and 787/1249 MTX-naïve pts had BL estimated yearly progression ≥5. Median mTSS in pts with BL yearly progression ≥5 and <5 was 53.25 vs 5.00 respectively in the MTX-IR trial and 6.00 vs 2.50 in the MTX-naïve trial. At W24, the mTSS CFB in pts with BL yearly progression ≥5 and <5 was 0.84 and 0.22 in MTX-IR pts taking PBO + MTX, and 0.67 and 0.25 in MTX-naïve pts taking MTX mono. At W52, in pts with BL yearly progression ≥5, FIL200 + MTX reduced mTSS change vs PBO + MTX in the MTX-IR trial and vs MTX mono in the MTX-naïve trial (Figure 1). At W24, among pts with estimated BL yearly progression ≥5, FIL200 + MTX increased odds of no

Table 1. Ratio of no radiographic progression at W24

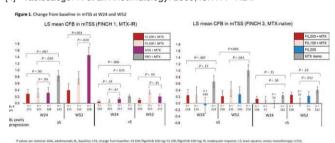| FINCH 1: MTX-IR	FIL200 + MTX		FIL100 + MTX		ADA + MTX		PBO + MTX	
	≥5 (n = 138)	<5 (n = 267)	≥5 (n = 139)	<5 (n = 265)	≥5 (n = 91)	<5 (n = 180)	≥5 (n = 101)	<5 (n = 250)
BL yearly progression								
% with no progression (≤0.5)	87.7	97.0	88.5	92.5	87.9	93.9	76.2	91.6
OR	2.22*	2.97*	2.40*	1.12	†	†	†	†
% with no progression (≤0)	80.4	91.8	81.3	88.3	80.2	89.4	67.3	86.4
OR	2.00*	1.75	2.11*	1.19	†	†	†	†
% with no progression (≤SDC [1.36])	91.3	98.1	92.1	96.6	92.3	95.6	81.2	94.0
OR	2.43*	3.35*	2.70*	1.82	†	†	†	†
FINCH 3: MTX-naïve	FIL200 + MTX		FIL100 + MTX		FIL200 mono		MTX	
BL yearly progression	≥5 (n = 221)	<5 (n = 134)	≥5 (n = 121)	<5 (n = 63)	≥5 (n = 115)	<5 (n = 58)	≥5 (n = 224)	<5 (n = 132)
% with no progression (≤0.5)	86.9	94.0	83.5	93.7	89.6	89.7	78.6	87.9
OR	1.81*	2.17	1.38	2.03	2.34*	1.20	†	†
% with no progression (≤0)	78.7	83.6	72.7	84.1	80.0	87.9	67.9	80.3
OR	1.75*	1.25	1.26	1.3	1.89*	1.79	†	†
% with no progression (≤SDC [1.53])	93.7	97.8	91.7	96.8	95.7	96.6	89.3	95.5
OR	1.77	2.08	1.33	1.45	2.64	1.33	†	†

MTX-IR ORs are FIL vs PBO + MTX; MTX-naïve are FIL vs MTX. *Nominal *P*<.05. †Not applicable. ADA, adalimumab; FIL, filgotinib; IR, inadequate response; mTSS, modified total Sharp score; MTX, methotrexate; OR, odds ratio; SDC, smallest detectable change; W, week.

progression (≤0.5 or ≤0) vs PBO + MTX in MTX-IR pts and vs MTX mono in MTX-naïve pts (Table 1).

Conclusion: These data suggest filgotinib's inhibition of radiographic progression was numerically greater than MTX monotherapy in RA pts with high estimated BL yearly progression. In those with a more moderate estimated rate of progression, filgotinib suppressed progression comparably to ADA and/or MTX.

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Figure 1. Change from baseline in mTSS at W24 and W52

P values are nominal. ADA, adalimumab; BL, baseline; CFB, change from baseline; FIL100, filgotinib 100 mg; FIL200, filgotinib 100 mg; IR, inadequate response; LS, least squares; mono, monotherapy; mTSS, modified total Sharp score; MTX, methotrexate; PBO, placebo; W, week.

POS0665 **DEVELOPMENT OF A BIOCHEMICAL TOFACITINIB ADHERENCE ASSAY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: THE ORAL ADHERE STUDY**

S. Church[1], K. Hyrich[2], K. Ogungbenro[3], R. Unwin[4], A. Barton[5,6], J. Bluett[5,6]. [1]Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Biology Medicine and Health, The University of Manchester, Core Technology Facility, Grafton Street, Manchester, United Kingdom; [2]Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, The University of Manchester, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; [3]Centre for Applied Pharmacokinetic Research, Division of Pharmacy and Optometry, University of Manchester, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; [4]Stoller Biomarker Discovery Centre and Division of Cancer Sciences, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Biology Medicine and Health, The University of Manchester, CityLabs 1.0 (3rd Floor), Nelson Street, Manchester, United Kingdom; [5]NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; [6]Versus Arthritis Centre for Genetics and Genomics, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Tofacitinib is a potent inhibitor of the JAK1/JAK3 tyrosine kinases effective in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Unlike biologic DMARDs, tofacitinib is administered orally. Oral administration offers a major benefit to patients, removing the risk of injection site reactions and previous research has shown that patients prefer an oral DMARD which may affect patient's adherence (1). Non-adherence is a health behaviour that results in reduced response and increased healthcare costs but can be challenging to accurately measure. Direct tofacitinib measurement may be an accurate measure of adherence that could, in the future, be used in a clinical setting as part of a behaviour change intervention. Tofacitinib can be measured using High Performance Liquid Chromatography Selected Reaction Monitoring Mass Spectrometry (HPLC-SRM-MS). Previous tofacitinib studies have demonstrated an assay sensitivity of 0.1ng/ml may be sufficient for the detection of adherence following 5mg twice daily administration (2).
Objectives: The aim of this study is to develop a HPLC-SRM-MS assay to measure biochemical tofacitinib adherence in patients with RA.
Methods: Human serum for method development was obtained from volunteers recruited to the collection of blood and urine samples from volunteers for the development of analytical methods study (UREC 12346) and the National Repository Study (REC 99/8/84) following informed consent. Samples were spiked with Tofacitinib/Tofacitinib-d3 and subjected to protein precipitation. LC-MS/MS analysis was performed on a TSQ Vantage triple quadrupole mass spectrometer coupled with an Accela UHPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). Validation of the assay was tested as adapted from European Medicines Agency guidelines on Bioanalytical Validation. Specifically, the lower limit of quantification (LLOQ), carryover, accuracy, linearity, precision, recovery and stability of the assay was determined.
To investigate the ability of the assay to detect adherence, serum samples (n=10) of patients prescribed tofacitinib from the Biologics in Rheumatoid Arthritis Genetics and Genomics Study Syndicate (BRAGGSS) were analysed (REC reference: 04/Q1403/37). Participants self-reported date and time of tofacitinib ingestion prior to venepuncture. Samples were analysed in triplicate.