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Final 5-Year Safety And Efficacy Results Of A Phase 3, Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial Of Golimumab In Patients With Active Rheumatoid Arthritis Despite Prior Treatment With Methotrexate.

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Background/Purpose:

The safety and efficacy of subcutaneous golimumab (GLM)+/-MTX has been evaluated through 2yrs in a phase 3 trial (GO-FORWARD) of pts with active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) despite MTX therapy. Final safety and efficacy results through 5yrs are reported.

Methods:

Pts in GO-FORWARD were randomized to placebo (PBO)+MTX, GLM 100mg+PBO, GLM 50mg+MTX, or GLM 100mg+MTX q4w. PBO+MTX pts crossed over to GLM+MTX at wks 16 (blinded early escape) or 24 (crossover). Pts continued treatment at wk52 (start of long-term extension). After the last pt completed wk52 and unblinding occurred, MTX and corticosteroid use could be adjusted, and a one-time GLM dose increase (50 to 100mg) or decrease (100 to 50mg) was permitted based on investigator judgment. The last GLM injection was at wk252. Observed efficacy results (ACR20/50/70, DAS28-CRP, HAQ-DI, radiographic) by randomized treatment group and cumulative safety data are reported through wks 256 and 268, respectively.

Results:

A total of 444 pts were randomized; 313 pts continued treatment through wk252, and 131 pts withdrew (64 for AE, 25 for lack of efficacy, 1 protocol violation, 6 lost to follow-up, 32 for other reasons, 3 deaths). 301 completed the safety follow-up through wk268. Efficacy results are presented in the table. At wk256, 76.0% of all pts had an ACR20, 89.5% had a DAS28-CRP EULAR response, and 68.5% had improvement in HAQ-DI ≥ 0.25 . Changes from baseline in mean total vdH-S scores were small; 54% of pts randomized to GLM+MTX had no radiographic progression (DvdH-S ≤ 0). The most common AEs were upper respiratory tract infection

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(32.9%), nasopharyngitis (17.1%), and bronchitis (17.1%); 9.2% of pts had an injection-site reaction. Through wk268, 172/434 pts (39.6%) had an SAE; 14.1% of pts discontinued study agent due to AEs. The rates of serious infections, malignancies, and death were 11.5%, 6.2%, and 1.8%, respectively. Of 429 pts with available samples, 33 (7.7%) were positive for antibodies to GLM.

Table. Efficacy results at wk256

| Efficacy at wk256 | PBO+MTX ^a | GLM100mg+PBO ^b | GLM 50mg+MTX ^b | GLM 100mg+MTX ^b | Total |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ACR20 | 69/91 (75.8%) | 71/93 (76.3%) | 57/74 (77.0%) | 44/59 (74.6%) | 241/317 (76.0%) |
| ACR50 | 43/91 (47.3%) | 48/93 (51.6%) | 40/74 (54.1%) | 28/59 (47.5%) | 159/317 (50.2%) |
| ACR70 | 21/91 (23.1%) | 27/93 (29.0%) | 28/74 (37.8%) | 15/59 (25.4%) | 91/317 (28.7%) |
| DAS28-CRP EULAR Response | 81/90 (90.0%) | 83/92 (90.2%) | 65/73 (89.0%) | 52/59 (88.1%) | 281/314 (89.5%) |
| DAS28-CRP Remission (<2.6) | 38/90 (42.2%) | 41/92 (44.6%) | 35/73 (47.9%) | 27/59 (45.8%) | 141/314 (44.9%) |
| SDAI ≤3.3 | 25/90 (27.8%) | 21/92 (22.8%) | 20/73 (27.4%) | 17/60 (28.3%) | 83/315 (26.3%) |
| DAS28-CRP ≤3.2 | 56/90 (62.2%) | 59/92 (64.1%) | 46/73 (63.0%) | 38/60 (63.3%) | 199/315 (63.2%) |
| HAQ-DI improvement ≥0.25 | 61/91 (67.0%) | 59/93 (63.4%) | 55/74 (74.3%) | 42/59 (71.2%) | 217/317 (68.5%) |
| Radiographic results at wk256. | | | | | |
| Estimated annual progression rate at baseline ^c | 5.3 ± 7.8 | 5.6 ± 8.9 | 4.7 ± 6.9 | 5.4 ± 13.7 | 5.3 ± 9.3 |
| Mean ± SD annual rate of progression through 5yrs ^d | 0.7 ± 2.0 | 1.0 ± 2.3 | 0.3 ± 1.2 | 0.7 ± 2.2 | 0.7 ± 2.0 |
| Mean ± SD change in vdH-S score | 3.2 ± 9.2 | 4.6 ± 10.9 | 1.7 ± 6.1 | 3.3 ± 10.2 | 3.3 ± 9.4 |
| Change in vdH-S score ≤0 | 52/95 (54.7%) | 43/99 (43.4%) | 47/79 (59.5%) | 30/65 (46.2%) | 172/338 (50.9%) |
| ^a Pts switched to GLM at wk16 or 24. | | | | | |
| ^b After wk52 pts could receive GLM50 mg or 100mg, and MTX could be added/adjusted. | | | | | |
| ^c vdH-S score divided by the disease duration per pt. | | | | | |
| ^d Change in vdH-S score divided by GLM treatment duration per pt. | | | | | |

Conclusion:

The retention rate was high (70.5%), and improvements in signs/symptoms of RA and in physical function with GLM+MTX therapy were maintained long-term. Radiographic progression appeared controlled with small changes in mean vdH-S scores observed through 5yrs. The long-term safety of GLM is consistent with other anti-TNF α agents.

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