Safety profile characterization of evobrutinib in over 1000 patients from Phase II clinical trials in multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus

Xavier Montalban¹, Daniel Wallace², Mark C Genovese³, Davorka Tomic⁴, Dana Parsons-Rich^{5*}, Claire Le Bolay⁶, Amy Kao⁵, Hans Guehring⁶

¹Department of Neurology-Neuroimmunology, Centre d'Esclerosi Múltiple de Catalunya (Cemcat), Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain; ²Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA; ³Division of Immunology and Rheumatology, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA; ⁴Ares Trading SA, Eysins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA; ⁵EMD Serono Research & Development Institute, Inc., Billerica, MA, USA, an affiliate of Merck KGaA; ⁶Merck Healthcare KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany *Affiliation at the time the research was conducted



CONCLUSION

This is the first integrated analysis of a BTK inhibitor with safety data derived from Phase II trials across MS, RA and SLE indications



- The rate of TEAEs was similar for evobrutinib and placebo by indication and across trials
- There was no enhanced risk of serious infections with evobrutinib (despite background immunosuppressant therapy in the RA and SLE trials)



- Elevations in ALT and AST observed with evobrutinib treatment were asymptomatic and reversible
 - Other drug class-associated TEAEs were not observed with evobrutinib compared with placebo

Overall, the evobrutinib safety profile supports the continued development for MS and the ongoing Phase III program



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 Evobrutinib is a highly selective, orally administered, covalent BTK inhibitor, with a low potential for off-target related adverse effects^{1,2}

- Evobrutinib has been investigated in patients with MS, RA and SLE in Phase II trials:
 - **Evobrutinib was well tolerated** in all three Phase II trials^{3–5}
 - In the MS trial, data from the double-blind period and the open-label extension have demonstrated that the safety of evobrutinib was maintained over 2 years⁶
 - Evobrutinib met the efficacy endpoints in the MS trial: reduced clinical and subclinical MRI disease activity in relapsing MS patients over 24 weeks³
- Given the ongoing clinical development of evobrutinib in MS, there is a rationale to characterize the overall safety profile of evobrutinib



OBJECTIVES

To analyze the integrated safety profile, including drug class-related AEs, of evobrutinib using pooled data from Phase II trials in MS*, RA and SLE

*48-week data from the double-blind period

Ig and B cell levels remained within normal ranges across indications



Concomitant medications

Patients, n (%) ATC Class Level 2	M	IS	R	Α	SLE		
	Pbo (n=54)	Evo (n=208)	Pbo (n=97)	Evo (n=293)	Pbo (n=120)	Evo (n=360)	
Analgesics	15 (27.8)	48 (23.1)	18 (18.6)	71 (24.2)	52 (43.3)	165 (45.8)	
Immunosuppressants	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	95 (97.9)	291 (99.3)	105 (87.5)	316 (87.8)	
Corticosteroids	8 (14.8)	33 (15.9)	63 (64.9)	177 (60.4)	108 (90.0)	325 (90.3)	

Per the RA and SLE trial designs, concomitant immunosuppressants/immunomodulators (RA: methotrexate; SLE: azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, mycophenolate, methotrexate, sulfasalazine and leflunomide), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and corticosteroids were permitted

No imbalance in the rate of TEAEs between evobrutinib and placebo



tinib 25 so, -24 are neebo data for the (n=49) **MS (48 weeks) Ig:** pbo n=46, evo n=39, evo 25 mg QD n=37, evo 75 QD n=89, evo 75 mg QD n=81, evo n=77, evo 50 mg BID n=83; **SLE (**

2.0

-4.0 J
MS (48 weeks) Ig: pbo n=46, evo 25 mg QD n=43, evo 75 mg QD n=47, evo 75 mg BID n=48; MS B cells: pbo n=39, evo 25 mg QD n=37, evo 75 mg QD n=36, evo 75 mg BID n=42; RA (12 weeks) Ig: pbo n=83, evo 25 mg QD n=89, evo 75 mg QD n=81, evo 50 mg BID n=88; RA B cells: pbo n=82, evo 25 mg QD n=85, evo 75 mg QD n=77, evo 50 mg BID n=83; SLE (52 weeks) Ig: pbo n=78, evo 25 mg QD n=83, evo 75 mg QD n=85 (IgM n=84), evo 50 mg BID n=76; SLE B cells: pbo n=57, evo 25 mg QD n=60, evo 75 mg QD n=63, evo 50 mg BID n=60
*B cell levels for the SLE trial are total B cell levels; the other trials are CD19+ B cell levels

Generally well balanced rates of other potential class-associated TEAEs between evobrutinib and placebo (see Table S2 for details by indication)

	Total				
	Pbo (n=271)		Evo (n=861)		
	n (%)	EAIR	n (%)	EAIR	• Higher FAIR of ALT/AST
ALT increased*	4 (1.5)	2.8	25 (2.9)	4.8	increases with evobrutinib
AST increased*	1 (0.4)	0.7	18 (2.1)	3.5	versus placeboAsymptomatic and reversible
					on treatment withdrawal
Tachycardia	0 (0.0)	-	1 (0.1)	0.2	
Ventricular arrhythmia	0 (0.0)	-	1 (0.1)	0.2	
Bleeding ⁺	7 (2.6)	2.4	13 (1.5)	0.6	Bleeding events
Bruising‡	1 (0.4)	0.7	5 (0.6)	0.5	with evobrutinib

EAIR (eve 0			9.1	9.1	0.0	0.6	9.8	9.5	18.0	14.5	0.0	0.4			2.1	2.7
FATR (e	TE events/	AEs	Treati rela Grad TE	eatment-Treatment-SeriousTEAEsFatal TErelatedrelatedTEAEsleading toFatal TErade ≥3Grade ≥4treatmenttreatmentTEAETEAEwithdrawalithdrawal		TEAE	Infections		Ser infec	ious :tions						
patient-	years)	100														
MS*	148.3	119.7	8.3	6.6	0.0	0.0	8.4	5.3	20.8	11.1	0.0	0.0	59.9	35.7	4.2	0.0
RA	306.8	331.8	4.9	4.6	0.0	0.0	9.7	7.7	28.9	16.8	0.0	0.0	61.4	63.1	0.0	3.1
SLE	302.1	343.0	10.2	11.4	0.0	1.0	10.1	12.1	15.1	15.7	0.0	0.7†	76.1	121.4	2.0	4.0
*MS trial: patients were treated with placebo between Weeks 0–24 after which they switched to evobrutinib 25 mg QD; †Two TEAEs in the evobrutinib treatment group from the SLE trial were fatal. One of these events was considered to be treatment related by the investigator																

Neoplasms (SOC)	5 (1.8)	3.5	7 (0.8)	1.4
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Infections and infestations (SOC)	78 (28.8)	70.4	294 (34.1)	80.8
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Amylase increase	10 (3.7)	7.0	26 (3.0)	5.1
Lipase increase*	4 (1.5)	2.8	17 (2.0)	4.0

Neutropenia*	6 (2.2)	4.2	10 (1.2)	1.9
Thrombocytopenia*	0 (0.0)	-	2 (0.2)	0.4
Lymphopenia*	10 (3.7)	7.2	16 (1.9)	3.1

*The event with the highest severity for a patient during the treatment period and meeting the AESI definition was included in the summary; †Defined by medical concept as epistaxis, hematoma, hematoma muscle, hemorrhagic diathesis; ‡Defined by medical concept as ecchymosis and petechiae

(μL)

SLE

140

-140

Abbreviations: AE, adverse event; AESI, AE of special interest; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ATC, anatomical therapeutic chemical; BID, twice daily; BTK, Bruton's tyrosine kinase; CFB, change from baseline; EAIR, exposure-adjusted incidence rate; ECG, electrocardiogram; evo, evobrutinib; Ig, immunoglobulin; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; MS, multiple sclerosis; pbo, placebo; QD, once daily; RA, rheumatoid arthritis; SD, standard deviation; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus; SOC, system organ class; TEAE, treatment-emergent AE

No

imbalance

in the rate

of serious

infections

80.8

70.4

1. Haselmayer P, et al. *J Immunol.* 2019;202(10):2888–2906; 2. Caldwell RD, et al. *J Med Chem.* 2019;62(17):7643–7655; 3. Montalban X, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;380(25):2406–2417; 4. Peterfy C, et al. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2020;72(10)RA2012 (Abstract); 5. Wallace DJ, et al. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2020;72(10)SLE0865 (Abstract); 6. Montalban X, et al. *Mult Scler.* 2020;26(S3):233 (Abstract P0235). The authors thank the patients and their families, as well as the investigators, co-investigators and the study teams at each of the participating centers; Emily Martin, Daniela Sera (EMD Serono Research & Development Institute, Inc., Billerica, MA, USA, an affiliate of Merck KGaA) and Karin Broeder (Merck Healthcare KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) for providing assistance with the statistical analyses. Merck Healthcare KGaA was involved in the study design, collection, analysis and interpretation of the data, and the development of this presentation. Medical writing assistance was provided by Bioscript Stirling Ltd, Macclesfield, UK and supported by Merck Healthcare KGaA (CrossRef Funder ID: 10.13039/100009945). Previously presented at the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) 2021 Virtual Congress, October 13–15, 2021.

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