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BARICITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS FROM A PHASE 2, RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY

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Background Baricitinib (Bari), an oral selective inhibitor of Janus kinase (JAK)1 and JAK2, has been approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in over 50 countries including the United States, European countries, and Japan. The purpose of this study was to report results from a 24 week global, Phase 2, double-blind, placebo (PBO)-controlled study of Bari in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) receiving standard therapy.

Methods Patients with SLE (positive antinuclear antibody [ANA] or anti-double stranded DNA [anti-dsDNA], clinical

SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 [SLEDAI-2K] 4, arthritis or rash required) receiving stable background SLE therapy were randomized 1:1:1 to PBO or Bari (2- or 4 mg) once-daily. The primary endpoint was resolution of arthritis or rash as defined by the SLEDAI-2K at Week 24.

Results Of 314 patients randomized, 79%, 82%, and 83% completed 24 weeks of treatment in the PBO, Bari 2 mg, and Bari 4 mg groups, respectively. At Week 24, a significantly greater proportion of patients in the Bari 4 mg group compared to PBO achieved resolution of arthritis or rash (67% vs 53%, $p < 0.05$) and SLE Responder Index (SRI)-4 response (64% vs 48%, $p < 0.05$). At Week 24, the proportions of patients achieving flare reduction (Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus National Assessment [SELENA]-SLEDAI Flare Index [SFI]), Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS), Physicians Global Assessment, and tender joint count change from baseline were also significantly improved for Bari 4 mg compared to PBO (Table). No statistically significant differences were observed between Bari 2 mg and PBO in any of the above endpoints. There were no significant changes in anti-dsDNA or complement in patients treated with Bari. Rates of adverse events leading to treatment discontinuation and serious adverse events (SAEs) were higher for both Bari dose groups compared to PBO. There were no deaths, malignancies, major adverse cardiovascular events, tuberculosis, or serious herpes zoster infections; 1 SAE of deep vein thrombosis was reported in a patient with risk factors (Bari 4 mg group).

Conclusions In patients with SLE receiving standard background therapy, once-daily oral Bari 4 mg was associated with significant clinical improvements compared to PBO and an acceptable benefit/risk profile. These findings support further study of Bari as a potential therapy for patients with SLE.

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Abstract 199 Table 1 Efficacy and safety outcomes of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus in a phase 2 study of baricitinib

	PBO (n=105)	Bari 2 mg (n=105)	Bari 4 mg (n=104)
Efficacy measure			
Week 24			
Resolution of arthritis or rash (SLEDAI-2K)	56 (53.3)	61 (58.1)	70 (67.3)*
SRI-4	50 (47.6)	54 (51.4)	67 (64.4)*
Flare (SFI, any severity)	54 (51.4)	45 (42.9)	34 (32.7)*
Flare (SFI, severe)	12 (11.4)	10 (9.5)	6 (5.8)
LLDAS	27 (25.7)	35 (33.3)	40 (38.5)*
Δ Tender joint count	-5.59	-6.50	-6.86*
Δ Swollen joint count	-4.60	-4.12	-4.76
Δ Physician's Global Assessment	-26.3	-25.9	-32.2*
Δ Complement C3, g/L	0	0	-0.02
Δ Complement C4, g/L	0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Safety measure			
Weeks 0-24‡			
TEAEs	68 (64.8)	75 (71.4)	76 (73.1)
SAEs	5 (4.8)	11 (10.5)	10 (9.6)
Serious infections	1 (1.0)	2 (1.9)	6 (5.8)
Deep vein thrombosis	0	0	1 (1.0)

Δ=least squares mean change from baseline; Bari=baricitinib; LLDAS=Lupus Low Disease Activity State; n=number of patients in the analysis population; n=number of patients in the specified category; PBO=placebo; SAEs=serious adverse events; SFI=Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus National Assessment [SELENA]-Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index [SLEDAI] Flare Index; SLEDAI-2K=Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000; SRI-4=Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Responder Index-4; TEAEs=treatment emergent adverse events.

Data are n (%) patients, unless otherwise indicated.

* $p < 0.05$ vs placebo.

‡Includes up to 30 days post-treatment.

Wallace et al. Baricitinib in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: results from a phase 2, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study [abstract]. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2018; 70 (suppl 10).

Wallace et al. Baricitinib for systemic lupus erythematosus: a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial. *Lancet.* 2018; 392: 222-31.

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EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF BELIMUMAB IN PATIENTS OF BLACK RACE WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS FROM THE EMBRACE STUDY

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Background Black patients have an increased prevalence and severity of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), alongside higher mortality rates. The efficacy and safety of intravenous (IV) belimumab has been demonstrated in several Phase 2/3 studies; however, the small number of black patients within these trials, and the conflicting results, have limited conclusions regarding efficacy in this population. The objective of this study was to specifically assess the efficacy and safety of IV belimumab plus standard of care (SoC) in black patients with active, auto antibody-positive SLE.

Methods EMBRACE (NCT01632241) is a randomized, multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in patients of self identified black race, aged 18 years, with active SLE at