



Immune Cell Activation in Severe COVID-19 Resembles Lupus Treatments

Andrej Spec

Different treatments for lupus. It's an exciting time in lupus research says Dr. Richard Furie, chief of rheumatology at Northwell Health in New York. In today's one on one interview, he breaks down some of the lupus studies. "It's an exciting time in lupus," Dr. Furie says. "The foray into lupus and lupus nephritis trials started in the early 1990s. The results of our efforts were just one drug and that was belimumab approved by the FDA about 10 years ago. But, it's not for lack of trying. It's just that lupus is incredibly challenging for a lot of different reasons. We're finally starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel in systemic lupus and also lupus nephritis.

Dr. Furie addresses the results of the phase three Bliss lupus nephritis (BLISS-LP) clinical trial. The results of the trial, which began in the late 1990s, showed that after 104 weeks of treatment with belimumab for lupus nephritis, 43 percent of patients in the treatment arm had a primary efficacy renal response as compared to 32 percent of patients in the placebo group. And, 30 percent of treated patients had a complete response as compared to 20 percent in the placebo group.

During the American College of Rheumatology annual meeting last month, Juana Mata shared her story of a life living with lupus. Getting an accurate diagnosis wasn't easy, but eventually she found a doctor and treatment that's working for her. In today's interview, Kim Gorgens, a psychologist and Rheumatology Network board member interviews Juana and her sister, Estela, who describe turning a lupus diagnosis into a positive force for change through advocacy. The sisters have created a non-profit group called Looms for Lupus in which they embrace art therapy to relieve stress.

The Young Scientist Awards make every effort in providing a strong professional development opportunity for early career academicians by meeting experts to exchange and share their experiences on all aspects.

In previous studies of belimumab, which was approved in March 2011 as a treatment for lupus, Dr. Furie and his team tracked the impact of belimumab on renal disease. The evidence showed improvements in low grade renal disease

which was supported by translational evidence eventually leading to the launch of BLISS-LN for lupus patients with biopsy-proven lupus nephritis. A lupus flare refers to a period during which the disease is actively producing symptoms. A person with lupus enters remission once their symptoms go away.

This was a two-year international study in which the primary endpoint being a reduction in proteinuria. By the close of the study, there was an 11 point difference between drug performance and placebo. The secondary endpoint was complete renal response, which ultimately showed an effect size 10 percentage points. The hazard ratio for a complete renal endpoint was a 50 percent reduction in time to renal response.

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Lupus Treatments causes the following symptoms:

- Painful or swollen joints
- Muscle pain
- Fever
- A butterfly-shaped rash on the face

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These equivalent difficulties can be promptly identified with immune system illnesses, in which the rate and components of COVID-19 transmission have raised numerous worries among researchers and patients, particularly considering the notable powerlessness of these patients to contaminations attributable to their adjusted invulnerable frameworks and to the utilization of immunosuppressive.

Andrej Spec

Department of Medicine, University of Pisa, Pisa, Europe, E-mail: andrej.spejk@pasyer.uk