

Prophylactic Tocilizumab to Mitigate Cytokine Release Syndrome and Facilitate Dosing of Talquetamab in All Practice Settings in Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma: Results From MonumenTAL-1

Aurore Perrot¹, Moshe Gatt², Matthew J Planko³, Lionel Karlin⁴, Carolina Schinke⁵, Ravi Vij⁶, Sundar Jagannath⁷, Larysa Sanchez⁸, Gareth Morgan⁹, Tomasz Wrobel¹⁰, Jan Zucha¹¹, Meir Preis¹², Yael C Cohen¹³, Paula Barreiro¹⁴, Bonnie W Lau¹⁵, Veronique Vreys¹⁶, Michela Campagna¹⁷, Tara Masterson¹⁸, Jenny Zhang¹⁸, Christoph Heuck¹⁸, Xiang Qin¹⁸, Svetlana Gavrilov¹⁵, Jaszianna Tolbert¹⁸, Dominik Dytfeld¹⁹

¹Université de Toulouse, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Toulouse, Service Hématologie, IUCT Oncopole, Toulouse, France; ²Hadassah Medical Center, Faculty of Medicine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel; ³University of Michigan Health, Ann Arbor, MI, USA; ⁴Centre Hospitalier Lyon Sud, Pierre-Bénite, France; ⁵Myeloma Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, USA; ⁶Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA; ⁷ICahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA; ⁸Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA; ⁹NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Perlmutter Cancer Center – NYU Langone Health, New York, NY, USA; ¹⁰Wrocław Medical University, Wrocław, Poland; ¹¹Medical University of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland; ¹²Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center & University of Haifa School of Medicine, Haifa, Israel; ¹³Tel Aviv Sourasky (Ichilov) Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel; ¹⁴Gray Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel; ¹⁵Johnson & Johnson, Toronto, ON, Canada; ¹⁶Johnson & Johnson, Raritan, NJ, USA; ¹⁷Johnson & Johnson, Beerse, Belgium; ¹⁸Johnson & Johnson, Madrid, Spain; ¹⁹Johnson & Johnson, Spring House, PA, USA; ²⁰Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznań, Poland

Key Takeaway



Incidence and severity of CRS was reduced with the addition of prophylactic tocilizumab with or without a modified talquetamab SUD schedule, and efficacy remained consistent compared with the MonumenTAL-1 study population

Conclusions



No increase in neutropenia or infections were observed with prophylactic tocilizumab vs the MonumenTAL-1 population



No increase in ICANS was observed with modified step-up dosing



ORR was high across cohorts and similar to the overall MonumenTAL-1 population



These results support broader use of talquetamab with tocilizumab prophylaxis and postdose dexamethasone in both inpatient and outpatient settings for patients with RRMM; regimens with 1 or 2 SUDs may warrant further evaluation



Please scan QR code



<https://www.congresshub.com/Oncology/IMS2026/Talquetamab/Perrot>

The QR code is intended to provide scientific information for individual reference, and the information should not be altered or reproduced in any way.

Acknowledgments

We thank the patients who participated in the study and their families and caregivers, the physicians and nurses who cared for patients and supported this clinical trial, staff members at the study sites, and staff members involved in data collection and analyses. The authors also thank Kelly Kelly for contributions to data analysis and interpretation. This study was funded by Johnson & Johnson. Medical writing support was provided by Lauren Hogarth, of Envision Medical Communications, and funded by Johnson & Johnson.

Disclosures

AP reports a consulting or advisory role with AbbVie, Adaptive Biotechnologies, Amgen, BMS, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Sanofi, Stemline Therapeutics, and Takeda Oncology; and service on an endpoint review committee for Sanofi.

Introduction

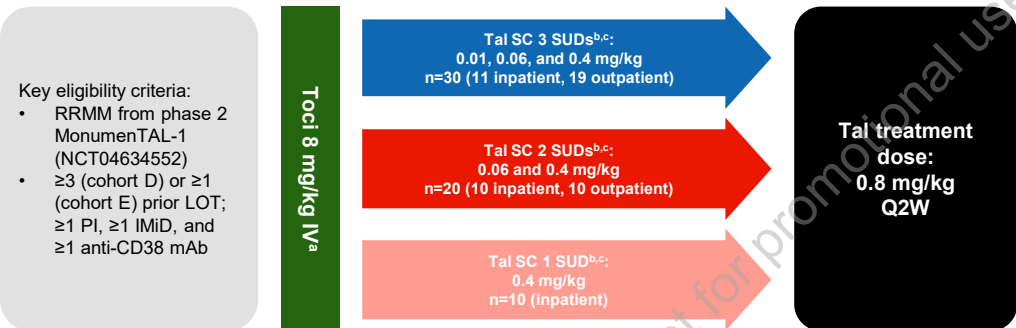
- In the phase 1/2 MonumenTAL-1 study, cytokine release syndrome (CRS) occurred in 75.3% (grade 3: 0.6%) of patients receiving talquetamab 0.8 mg/kg (preceded by 3 step-up doses [SUDs]) every other week (Q2W) without prophylactic tocilizumab,¹ and 37% of patients received tocilizumab treatment for a CRS event²
- Real-world experience with prophylactic tocilizumab in patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM) receiving bispecific antibodies demonstrated low CRS (10.1%, all grade 1/2), with no grade 3 events or need for further treatment with tocilizumab or corticosteroids³

To enable safe and effective outpatient dosing of talquetamab, we report the impact of prophylactic tocilizumab with or without alternative step-up dosing in patients from MonumenTAL-1

Methods

- The first 11 patients from cohort D and the first 10 patients from cohort E for each SUD regimen received the SUDs and first full treatment dose in a hospital, and subsequent patients were outpatients
 - Patients and caregivers in the outpatient setting were made aware of the signs/symptoms of CRS, immune effector cell–associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANS), infections, among other adverse events (AEs). They were instructed to measure body temperature 2 times daily (≥8 hours apart) for 48 hours after all SUDs and the first full treatment dose

Figure 1: Study design in patients receiving talquetamab and prophylactic tocilizumab



^aGiven approximately 3 hours prior to Tal with required pretreatments (glucocorticoid, antihistamine, and antipyretic). ^b8 mg PO/IV was given daily for 2 days after each SUD and first full treatment dose. ^c2–4 days elapsed between each SUD; 2–9 days elapsed between the last SUD and the first Tal treatment dose. IMiD, immunomodulatory drug; IV, intravenous; LOT, line of therapy; mAb, monoclonal antibody; PI, proteasome inhibitor; PO, oral; Q2W, every other week; SC, subcutaneous; Tal, talquetamab; toci, tocilizumab.

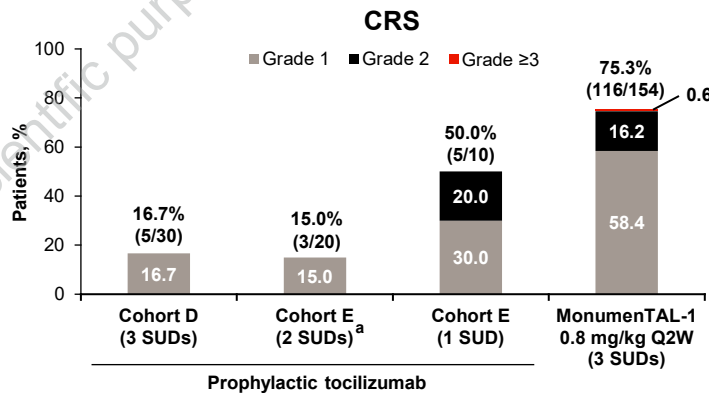
Results

Table 1: In total, 60 patients received treatment; baseline characteristics were representative of the MonumenTAL-1 population²

Parameter	Prophylactic tocilizumab	
	Cohort D (3 SUDs; N=30)	Cohort E (1 or 2 SUDs; N=30)
Follow-up, months, median (range)	17.3 (0.6–32.7)	6.2 (1.6–11.3)
Age, years, median (range)	68.5 (45–87)	65.5 (49–81)
White, n (%)	24 (80.0)	29 (96.7)
Male, n (%)	19 (63.3)	22 (73.3)
ECOG PS, n (%)		
0–1	29 (96.7)	29 (96.7)
2	1 (3.3)	1 (3.3)
Extramedullary plasmacytomas, n (%)		
0	24 (80.0)	26 (86.7)
≥1	6 (20.0)	4 (13.3)
ISS stage, ^a n (%)		
I/II	25 (86.2)	27 (90.0)
III	4 (13.8)	3 (10.0)
Prior LOT, median (range)	4 (3–10)	4 (2–10)
Refractory status, n (%)		
Triple-class ^b	21 (70.0)	20 (66.7)
Penta-drug ^c	7 (23.3)	4 (13.3)
To last LOT	27 (90.0)	24 (80.0)

^aISS staging is derived based on serum β_2 -microglobulin and albumin; calculated from n=29 in Cohort D. ^b≥1 PI, ≥1 IMiD, and ≥1 anti-CD38 mAb. ^c≥2 PIs, ≥2 IMiDs, and ≥1 anti-CD38 mAb. ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; ISS, International Staging System.

Figure 2: Reduced incidence of CRS with prophylactic tocilizumab compared with patients who received 0.8 mg/kg Q2W in MonumenTAL-1



^a1 patient with grade 1 CRS did not receive prophylactic tocilizumab due to a pump issue.

Table 2: Reduced incidence of CRS with prophylactic tocilizumab in the outpatient setting; there was 1 report of CRS across 29 patients (3.4%) who received tocilizumab in the outpatient setting

CRS Inpatient vs outpatient	Cohort D Prophylactic toci		Cohort E Prophylactic toci		MonumenTAL-1 0.8 mg/kg Q2W
	Inpatient	Outpatient	Inpatient	Outpatient	Inpatient
	3 SUDs (n=11) ^a	3 SUDs (n=19) ^a	1 or 2 SUDs (n=20)	2 SUDs (n=10)	3 SUDs (N=154)
Incidence, n (%)	4 (36.4) ^a	1 (5.3) ^a	8 (40.0) ^b	0	116 (75.3)
Grade 1	4 (36.4)	1 (5.3)	6 (30.0)	0	90 (58.4)
Grade 2	0	0	2 (10.0)	0	25 (16.2)
Grade 3	0	0	0	0	1 (0.6)
Onset, ^c days, median (range)	2 (2–12)	8 (8–8)	2 (1–5)	–	2 (1–15)
Duration, days, median (range)	1 (1–6)	1 (1–1)	1 (1–38)	–	2 (1–29)
Occurrence during SUD period, ^d n (%)	3/5 (60.0)	0	9/10 (90.0)	–	164/198 (82.8)
Occurrence during first full cycle, ^d n (%)	1/5 (20.0)	1/1 (100.0)	0/10	–	29/198 (14.6)
Occurrence during 2nd cycle or after, ^d n (%)	1/5 (20.0)	0	1/10 (10.0)	–	5/198 (2.5)
Recovered or resolved, number of events (%)	5/5 (100.0)	1/1 (100.0)	10/10 (100.0)	–	213/213 (100)

^a1 patient treated on an outpatient basis had CRS while hospitalized for bone pain. ^b1 patient with grade 1 CRS did not receive prophylactic toci due to a pump issue. ^cRelative to the most recent dose. ^dPatients could have ≥1 occurrence.

References

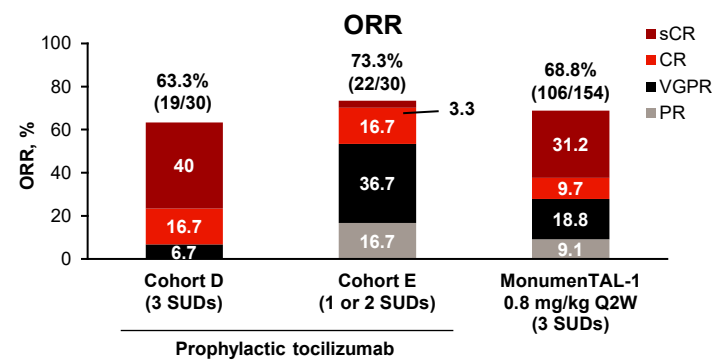
1. Rasche L, et al. *Blood*. Online ahead of print. 2. Chari A, et al. *Lancet Haematol* 2025;12:e269–81. 3. Kowalski A, et al. *Blood Adv* 2025;9:4979–86.

Table 3: TEAEs were consistent with the safety profile in MonumenTAL-1, with no increase in neutropenia, infections, ICANS, or other AEs

AE, n (%)	Prophylactic tocilizumab (N=60)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3/4
Any TEAE	60 (100)	37 (61.7)
Hematologic AEs		
Neutropenia	15 (25.0)	10 (16.7)
Anemia	13 (21.7)	4 (6.7)
Thrombocytopenia	10 (16.7)	3 (5.0)
Lymphopenia	9 (15.0)	8 (13.3)
Leukopenia	5 (8.3)	4 (6.7)
Nonhematologic AEs of interest		
Taste changes ^a	53 (88.3)	NA
Skin AEs ^b	38 (63.3)	0
Infections ^c	32 (53.3)	7 (11.7)
Nail AEs ^d	27 (45.0)	0
Dry mouth	23 (38.3)	0
Weight decrease	17 (28.3)	2 (3.3)
Rash AE ^e	17 (28.3)	2 (3.3)
Neurotoxicity ^f	21 (35.0)	0
ICANS	3 (5.0)	0

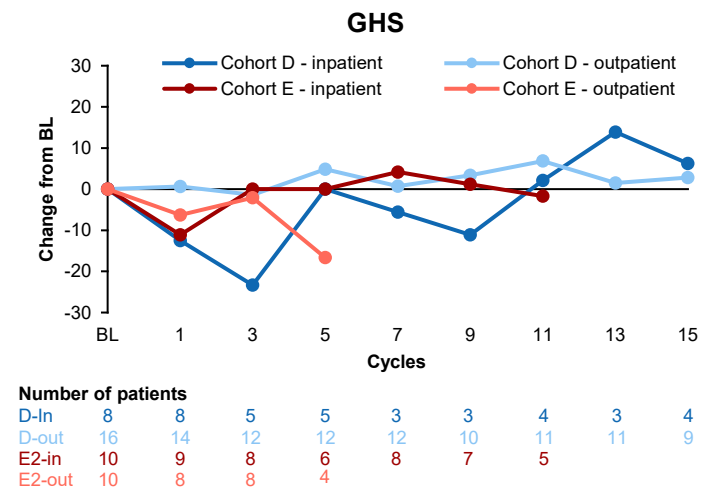
1 patient discontinued treatment due to an AE. Deaths occurred in 6 patients in cohort D (2 due to AEs [pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbation] and 4 due to disease progression). ^aDysgeusia, ageusia, hypogeusia, and taste disorder; maximum grade for taste changes is 2 per CTCAE. ^bSkin exfoliation, dry skin, pruritus, and palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia syndrome. ^cInfections described on a System Organ Class basis, and thus not grouped with Preferred Term data in terms of incidence. ^dNail discoloration, nail disorder, onycholysis, onychomadesis, onychoclasis, nail dystrophy, nail toxicity, and nail ridging. ^eRash, maculopapular rash, erythematous rash, and erythema. ^fExcluding ICANS. CTCAE, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; NA, not applicable. TEAEs, treatment-emergent AEs.

Figure 3: ORR in prophylactic tocilizumab cohorts D and E were high, consistent with patients who received 0.8 mg/kg Q2W in MonumenTAL-1^a



Median follow-up: 17.3 months (Cohort D) and 6.2 months (Cohort E). ^aAssessed by investigator per International Myeloma Working Group criteria. CR, complete response; PR, partial response; sCR, stringent complete response; ORR, overall response rate; VGPR, very good partial response.

Figure 4: Patient-reported Global Health Status (GHS) was consistent with the overall MonumenTAL-1 population and did not appear to differ between inpatient and outpatient settings



GHS and physical and emotional functioning are measured with European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer quality of life questionnaire core 30 scales, which range from 0–100, with higher values indicating improvements. BL, baseline; D-in, cohort D inpatient; D-out, cohort D outpatient; E2-in, cohort E, 2 SUD, inpatient; E2-out, cohort E, 2 SUD, outpatient.

