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Longer-term Safety with Siponimod Treatment in Multiple Sclerosis: Pooled Analysis of Data from the Bold and Expand Trials and their Extensions

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Background: Siponimod, an oral, selective sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P₁) receptor modulator, showed efficacy/safety recently in secondary progressive MS (phase 3 expand) and previously in relapsing MS (phase 2 bold) populations. Objective: To assess the longer-term safety of siponimod treatment for up to 6 years in MS patients (PTs) using pooled data from the bold and expand core/extensions trials.

Methods: Pooled safety data were evaluated in 2 groups: A controlled pool (CP) of pts who received siponimod 2mg (n=1148) and placebo (PBO; n=607) during the core phase of PBO-controlled studies; a long-term pool (LP) of pts who received ≥ 1 dose of siponimod 2 or 10mg in core/extension phases (n=1737)- data collected includes pts on any siponimod dose 0.25, 0.5, 1.25, 2, or 10mg in core phase bold and switched to 2mg in extension phase. Analysis included adverse events (AEs), serious AEs (SAES), and AEs of special interest with S1P modulators. The relation of infections and lymphocyte counts was analysed in the expand trial. All safety outcomes are presented as incidences or incidence rates (IRS)/100 patient-years (PYS).

Results: In the CP, mean exposure to siponimod 2 mg was 17.7 months (1696 PYS) and 16.5 months (835 PYS) for PBO. As of May 2017, mean exposure in the LP was 27.8 months (4018 PYS); 127 pts were exposed for ≥ 5 years. In the LP, AEs were reported in 90% of pts, SAES in 20.7%, and AEs that led to study discontinuation in 9.6%. IRS of the most common AEs (incidence $\geq 10\%$) in the LP were consistent with those reported with siponimod 2mg in the CP: Nasopharyngitis (9.1 vs 9.7), headache (7.9 vs 11.3), urinary tract infection (uti; 6.9 vs 8.3), fall (5.5 vs 7.9), and hypertension (4.9 vs 7.4). IRS of infections were 43.2 in the LP and 48.9 for siponimod 2mg and 53.8 for PBO in the CP; nasopharyngitis and uti were the most common infections. No increase in IRS of oral herpes (1.2 vs 1.1), herpes simplex (0.2 vs 0.2), and varicella zoster virus infections (1.8 vs 1.9) was observed in LP versus CP. Among pts with ≥ 1 measured lymphocyte count $< 0.4 \times 10^9 / l$ at any time, 53% had any infection, 44.7% in the $0.4-0.6 \times 10^9 / l$ and 42.3% in the $> 0.6 \times 10^9 / l$ categories similar/lower to the rate in the PBO (49.8%). IRS of malignancies were similar in CP and LP (1.2).

Conclusions: Longer-term follow-up treatment with siponimod 2 mg did not reveal any increase in ir of AEs or new safety findings versus the CP. Low lymphocyte counts were not associated with an increased infection rate.