Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease with organ involvement, making it a complex disease to manage. In the course of a longitudinal study, patients were observed for 6 months. After treatment with belimumab, the physician-assessed overall clinical response at Month 6 amongst patients with SLE who were receiving oral GC at initiation increased to 3.5% compared to 0.7% at Month 0. This study (206351) was funded by GSK. Medical conclusions were as follows:

- Clinical improvements following 6 months of belimumab treatment based on different responder criteria were associated with lower oral GC dose at belimumab initiation.

Results

- Baseline characteristics

  - 822 patients were included in the final analyses.
  - Patients had a mean age of 42 years, 89.3% were female, and 87.2% were caucasian.
  - 479 (57.7) patients had a SLEDAI score ≥10.
  - Patients fulfilled classification criteria for SLE (ACR 1997), with a median duration of disease of 10 years.
  - 741 (89.4) patients were serologically active.

Conclusions

- This study demonstrates the efficacy of belimumab in a large sample of patients with SLE treated with belimumab.
- The physician-assessed overall clinical response at Month 6 increased to 3.5% compared to 0.7% at Month 0.

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