

Use of upadacitinib in giant cell arteritis

Sirs,

The recent trial of upadacitinib in giant cell arteritis (GCA) (1) does not provide relevant information about the vascular visual impairment apparently present in 56/418 (13.4%) of the patients at baseline. Neither its distribution among the new and the relapsing group of patients at baseline nor its fate, based on this distribution, in the three treatment groups is available. A paramount morbidity in GCA is visual loss, commonly seen rather soon after the disease onset and becoming increasingly infrequent, in time. Thus, we consider the information we ask for is vital to better appreciate what is being reported. In this line, separate sensitivity analyses for all outcomes in the new and the relapsing group of patients would also have been helpful.

Finally, we want to challenge the appro-

priateness of using a placebo especially in the new onset group of patients. The current standard of care in this group includes using a glucocorticoid sparing agent like methotrexate, if tocilizumab is unavailable or cannot be used for other reasons.

H. OGUN, MD

Y. OZGULER, MD

*Division of Rheumatology,
Department of Internal Medicine,
Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Cerrahpaşa
Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey.*

*Please address correspondence to:
Hande Ogun*

*Division of Rheumatology,
Department of Internal Medicine,
Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa,
Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty,
34180 Istanbul, Turkey.*

E-mail: handesaygili@gmail.com

Competing interests: none declared.

Clin Exp Rheumatol 2025; 43 (Suppl. 136): S16.

*© Copyright CLINICAL AND
EXPERIMENTAL RHEUMATOLOGY 2025.*

Reference

1. BLOCKMANS D, PENN SK, SETTY AR *et al.*: A Phase 3 trial of upadacitinib for giant-cell arteritis. *N Engl J Med* 2025; 392(20): 2013-24. <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa2413449>