

Results from 1 year of treatment with lebrikizumab for atopic dermatitis

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Atopic dermatitis, also known as eczema, is a skin disease that causes itchy, dry skin. The condition is common and affects around 2–7% of adults worldwide.

Lebrikizumab is a potential new treatment for eczema. We carried out two global studies called ADvocate1 and ADvocate2 to find out if 1 year of lebrikizumab treatment improves the signs and symptoms of moderate-to-severe eczema, and we also studied its safety.

In the first 16 weeks, patients were treated with either lebrikizumab or placebo (which looked like the drug being tested but did not contain any medicine). At the end of the 16 weeks, patients who had a 75% or more improvement in the area and severity of their eczema or who had clear or almost-clear skin were considered 'treatment responders'.

We selected lebrikizumab responders to take part in the next 36 weeks of the study. Patients then received lebrikizumab every 2 weeks, lebrikizumab every 4 weeks or placebo every 2 weeks. Patients did not know which treatment they were receiving. We measured the signs and symptoms of eczema every 4 weeks. Patients reported itch and sleep loss because of itch every day in an electronic diary.

After 52 weeks, we found that most patients treated with lebrikizumab every 2 weeks or lebrikizumab every 4 weeks kept the response they achieved during the first 16 weeks of treatment. These patients also reported keeping improvements in itch and sleep loss because of itch. Many patients treated with placebo also kept their response, but not as well as patients treated with lebrikizumab. The safety of lebrikizumab was the same as the safety found in previous lebrikizumab studies. Most adverse events were mild or moderate and did not lead to patients stopping lebrikizumab.

Overall, our findings showed that lebrikizumab improved the signs and symptoms of eczema in patients with moderate-to-severe eczema and these improvements were kept over a 1 year with no new safety issues.