

Apremilast shows promise for severe plaque psoriasis

Apremilast [CC-10004]* appears to be an effective and safe option for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, according to the results of a multicentre phase II study.**

A total of 260 such patients were randomised to receive either oral apremilast 20mg twice daily (n = 86), apremilast 20mg once daily (87) or placebo, for 12 weeks.

At the end of treatment, a significantly greater proportion of apremilast 20mg twice daily recipients than placebo recipients achieved a PASI 75 response[†] (24.4% vs 10.3%) and a PASI 50 response (57.0% vs 23.0%); a greater proportion of apremilast twice daily recipients than placebo recipients also demonstrated a PASI 90 response, but the difference did not reach significance (14.0% vs 5.7%). Notably, apremilast recipients continued to improve throughout the study, with the greatest mean reduction in PASI score being demonstrated at week 12. There was no significant difference between the once-daily apremilast group and the placebo group for any of the PASI response measures. Both apremilast groups achieved significantly greater improvements in Dermatology Life Quality Index than placebo recipients.

The adverse event profiles of all three study arms were similar. There were no drug-related serious adverse events reported during the study.

* Celgene Corporation; phase II in the US for psoriasis, and phase II in Canada and Belgium for psoriatic arthritis

** sponsored by Celgene Corporation; presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology

† improvement of $\geq 75\%$ from baseline in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score

Papp K, et al. A phase 2 study demonstrating the efficacy and safety of the oral therapy CC-10004 in subjects with moderate to severe psoriasis. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 58 (Suppl.): AB3 (plus poster) abstr. P2614, No. 2, Feb 2008 801100231