Long-Term Safety of Tocilizumab in Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Trials

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ABSTRACT

Tocilizumab (TCZ), a humanized anti-IL-6R antibody, has been approved for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and is currently being evaluated for a range of other indications. We pooled data from patients who received TCZ in controlled studies or in two extension studies (GROWTH96, AMBITION). The primary objective of this analysis was to characterize the safety of TCZ in patients with RA over an extended period of time. A total of 12,293 patient-years (PY) were included: 1,235 patients were included in the controlled phase for up to 2 years, and 11,058 patients were included in the extension studies for up to 4.6 years. The overall SAE rate was 14.7/100 PY (95% CI: 14.0, 15.4); infections were the most frequent events (4.6/100 PY). The rate of severe infections was 0.5/100 PY (95% CI: 0.3, 0.8) as was the rate of neutropenia (0.5/100 PY). The rate of malignancies was 1.4/100 PY (95% CI: 1.2, 1.6). Clinically significant infusion reactions occurred at a rate of 0.1/100 PY (95% CI: 0.1, 0.2).

RESULTS

The overall rate of malignancies was 1.4/100 PY (95% CI: 1.2, 1.6). The overall rate of myocardial infarction was 0.3/100 PY (95% CI: 0.1, 0.3) and the overall rate of stroke was 0.2/100 PY (95% CI: 0.1, 0.3). Rates of stroke were stable over time. The rate of malignancies at US sites was similar to the rate of malignancies in the SEER database. However, malignancies were significantly more common in patients who were ongoing (P < 0.05).

CONCLUSIONS

The safety profile associated with TCZ was consistent with that previously reported and was similar to that observed in controlled studies. Malignancies were significantly more common in patients who were ongoing in the extension studies compared with patients in the controlled studies.

REFERENCES

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