



Brigham and Women's Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

Important New Trials In Glomerular Disease

David Bruce Mount MD, FRCPC
Associate/Clinical Chief,
Renal Division BWH
Assistant Professor HMS



David B. Mount, MD, FRCPC



University of Toronto Medical School
Medicine Residency @Toronto General
Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Renal Fellowship @ Brigham and
Women's Hospital (BWH)

Associate/Clinical Chief, Renal BWH

Co-Director, Glomerular Diseases Clinic BWH

Director of Dialysis Services, BWH

Physician, Renal Division VABHS

Research Focus: Urate transport

Clinical Focus: Glomerulonephritis,

Electrolyte disorders, Gout,

Consultative Nephrology



Financial Disclosures

Author, peer reviewer – UpToDate, McGraw Hill
Consultant/advisory boards
– Gout: Allena Pharmaceuticals, Horizon
Pharma/Amgen, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, ANI
Pharmaceuticals, Shanton Pharma
– ANCA-associated vasculitis: Amgen



OBJECTIVES

- Understand the circumstances when a referral for a clinical trial is appropriate for glomerular diseases.
- Review some recently approved therapeutics for glomerular diseases.
- Mention some recently published and ongoing clinical trials for glomerular disease therapeutics.



IgA Nephropathy Epidemiology Analysis



377,829

7MM Prevalence in 2020



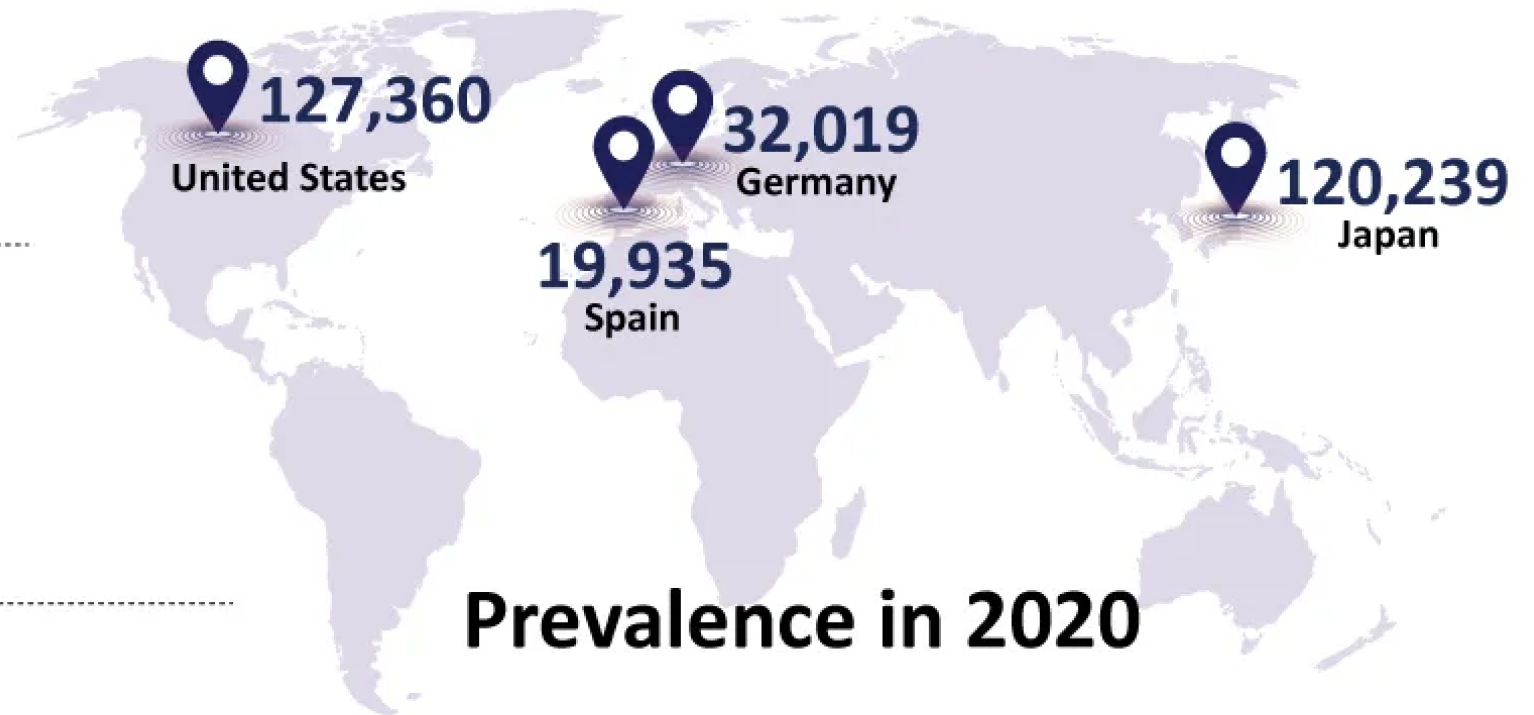
69,191

Prevalence in Males
in the US in 2020



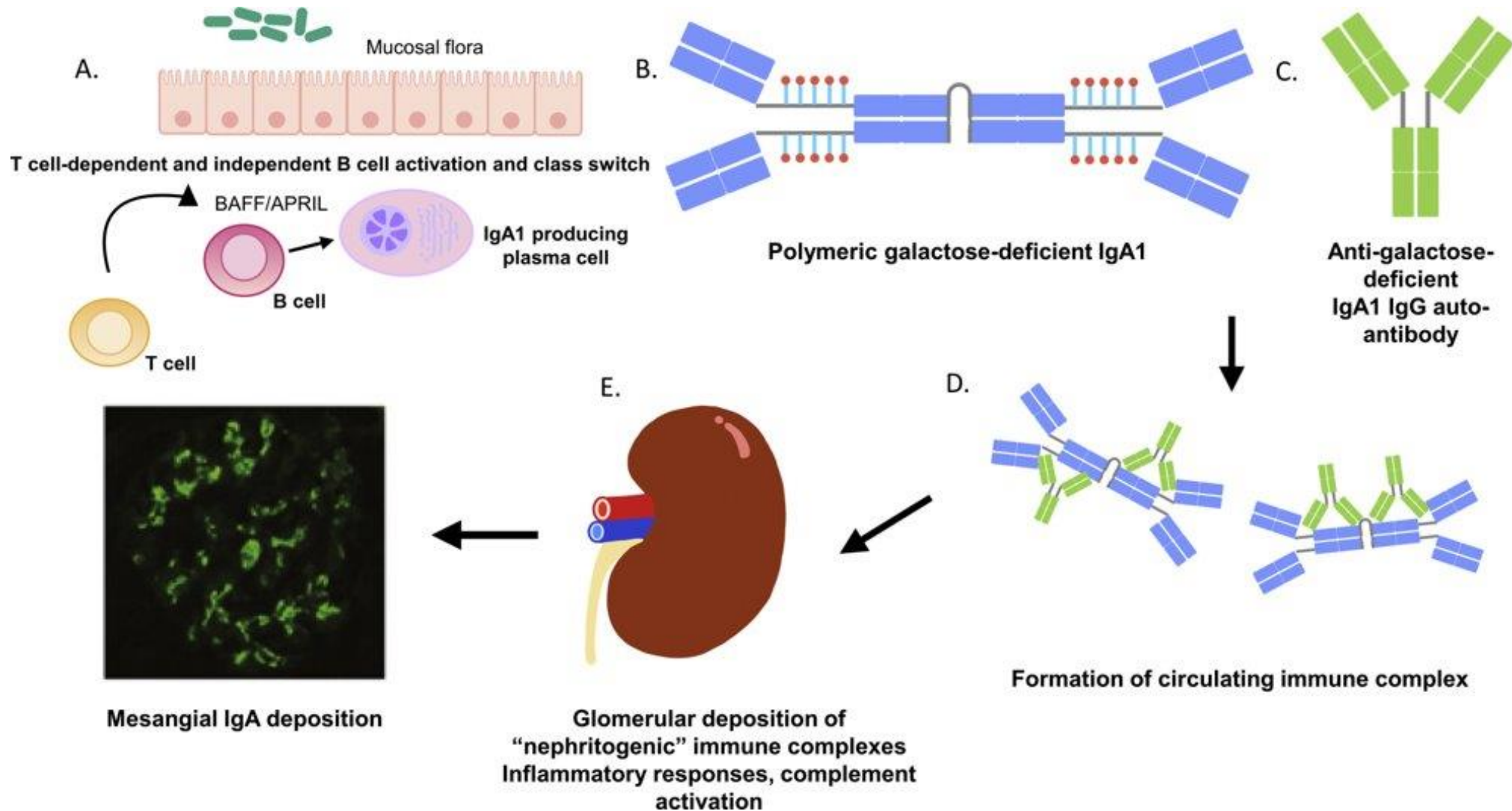
58,169

Prevalence in Females
in the US in 2020

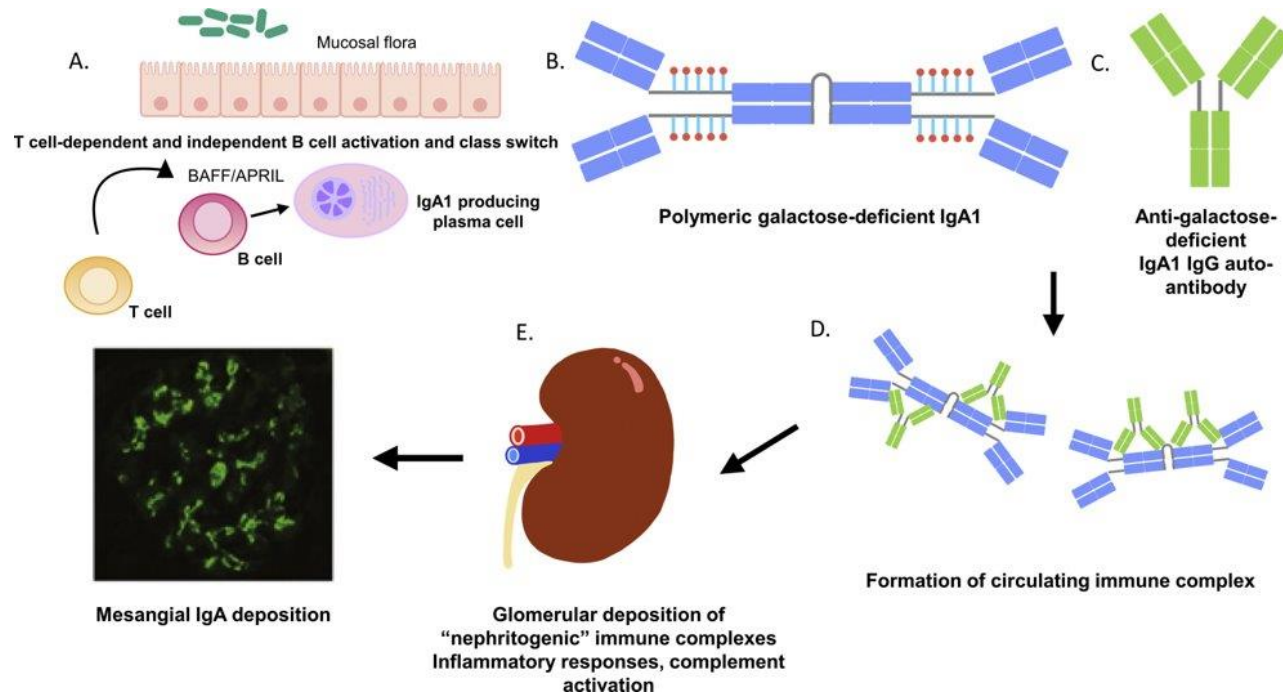


Prevalence in 2020

IgA Nephropathy pathogenesis is complex.

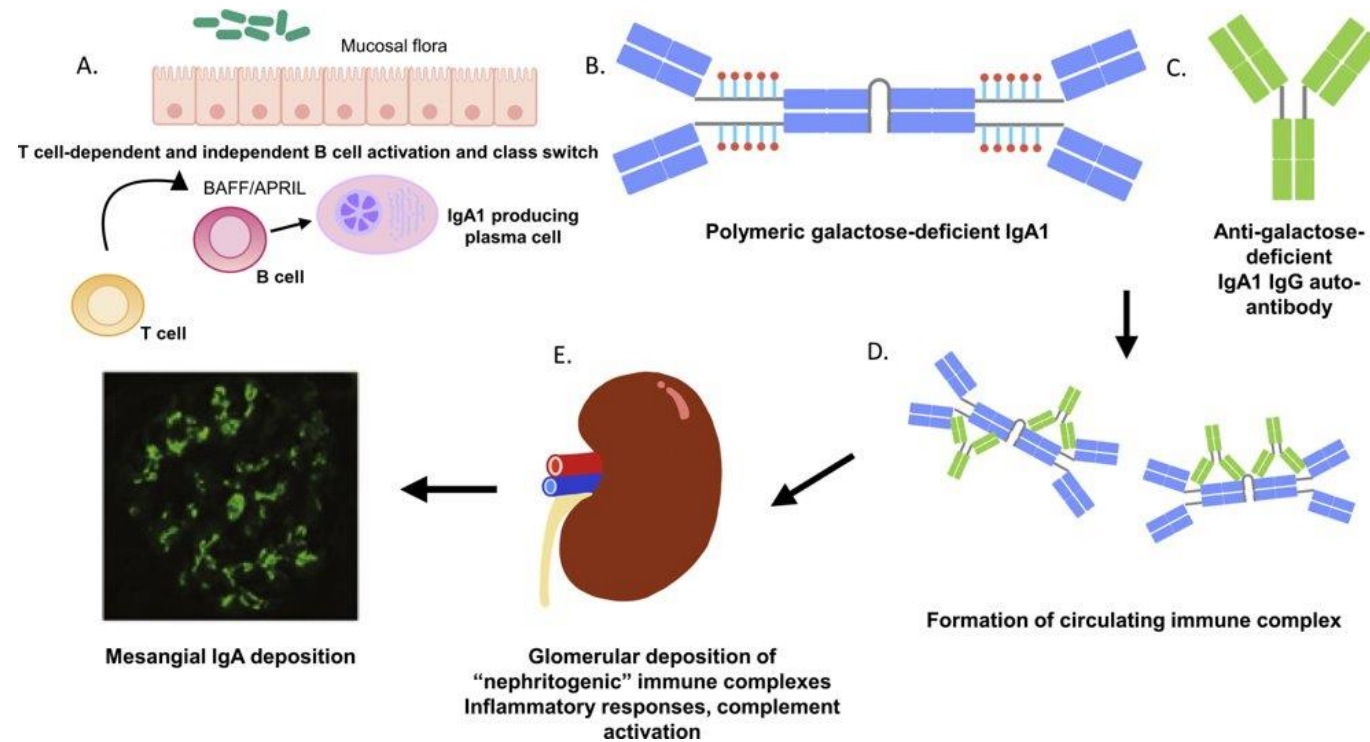


IgA Nephropathy pathogenesis is complex.



1st Hit - Production of poorly glycosylated IgA1 (Gd-IgA1).

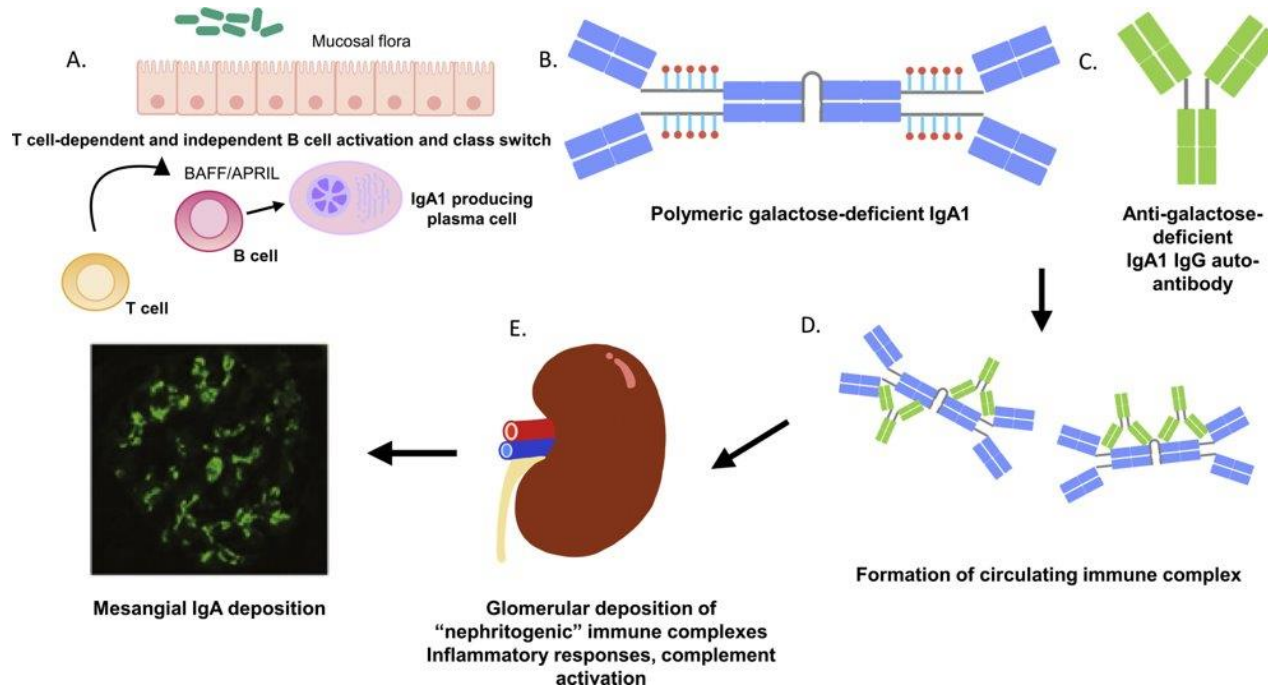
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IgA Nephropathy pathogenesis is complex.

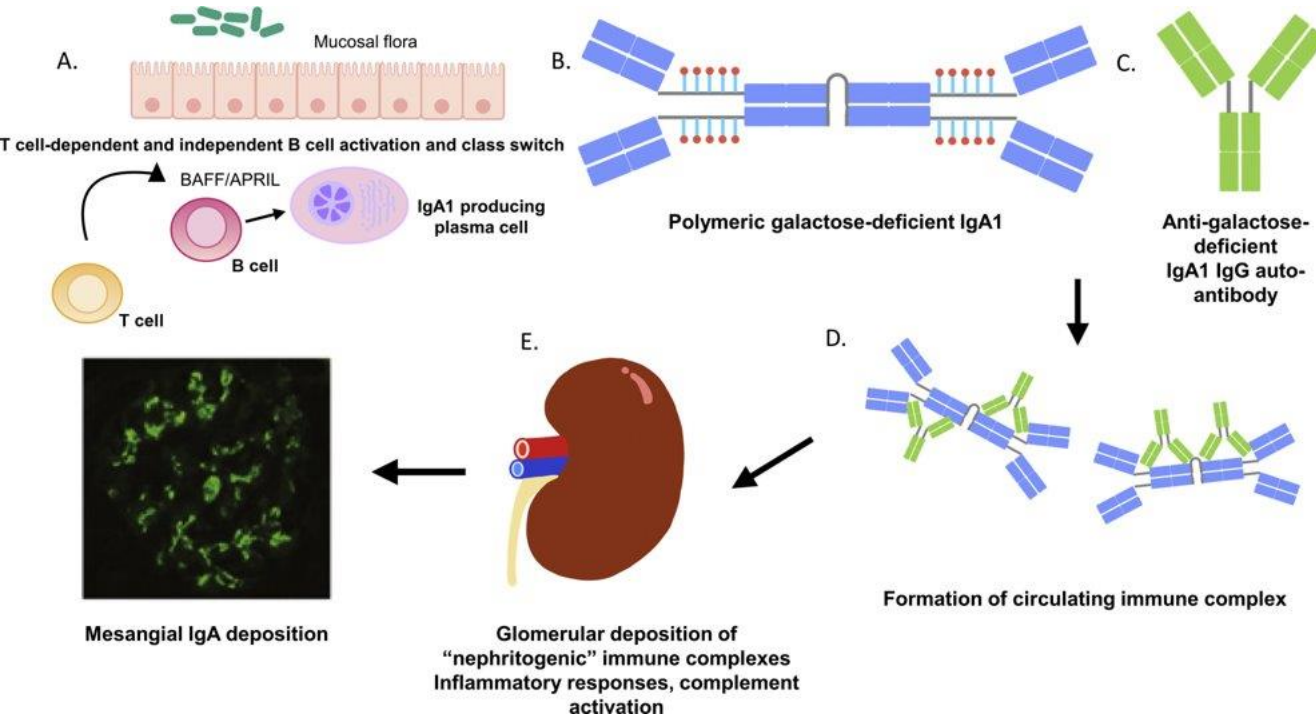


1st Hit - Production of poorly glycosylated IgA1 (Gd-IgA1).

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3rd Hit - Formation of circulating immune complexes containing Gd-IgA1.

IgA Nephropathy pathogenesis is complex.



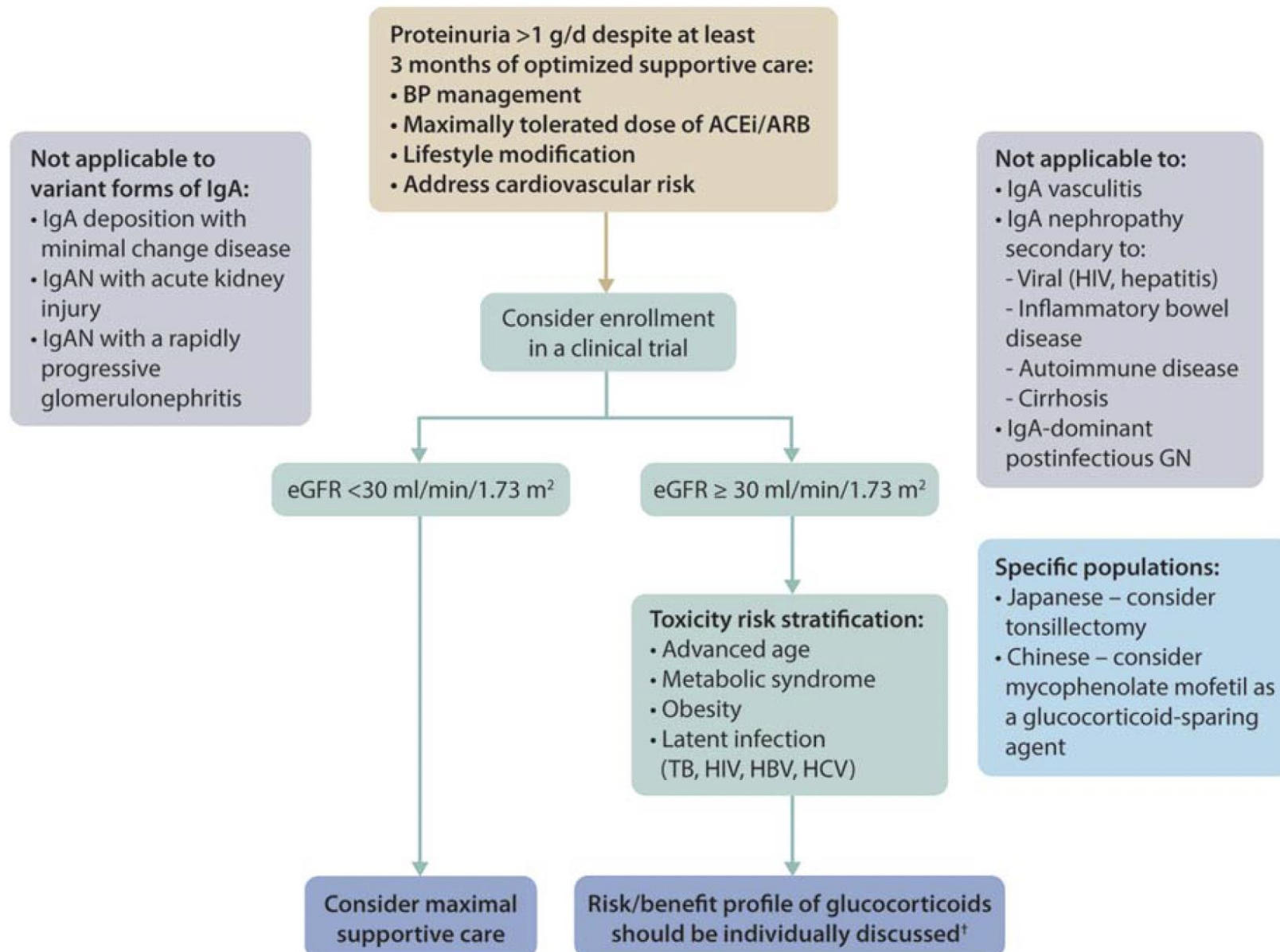
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3rd Hit - Formation of circulating immune complexes containing Gd-IgA1.

4th Hit - Immune complex deposition and kidney injury

KDIGO includes consideration of trial enrollment upfront.



Recently completed and ongoing trials.



QUESTION What are the effects of oral glucocorticoids, compared with placebo, in patients with IgA nephropathy and proteinuria of 1 g per day or greater receiving optimal supportive therapy?

CONCLUSION Treatment with oral methylprednisolone significantly reduced the risk of the composite of kidney function decline, kidney failure, or death due to kidney disease in patients with IgA nephropathy, but the incidence of serious adverse events was increased.

POPULATION

305 Men
198 Women



Adults with IgA nephropathy and proteinuria ≥ 1 g per day

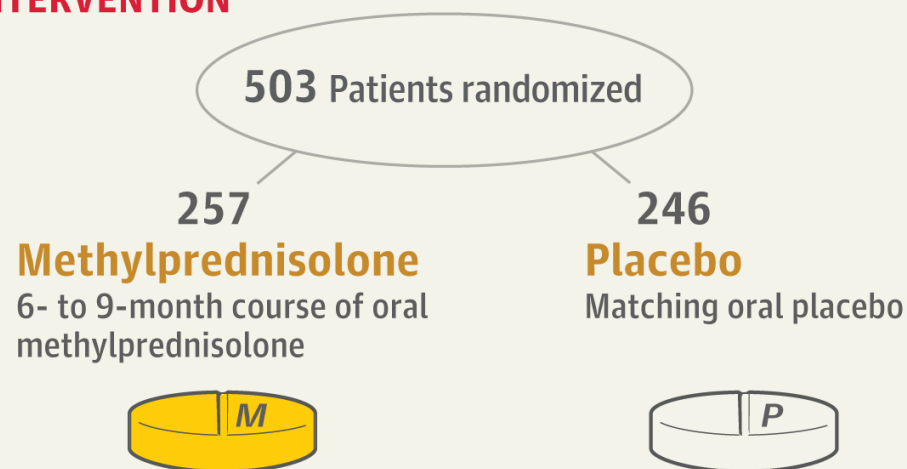
Mean age: 38 years

LOCATIONS

67
Medical centers
worldwide



INTERVENTION



PRIMARY OUTCOME

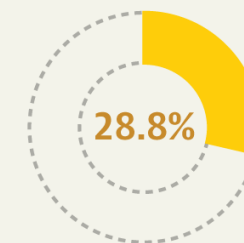
Composite outcome of the first occurrence of a sustained 40% decrease in estimated glomerular filtration rate, kidney failure, or death due to kidney disease

FINDINGS

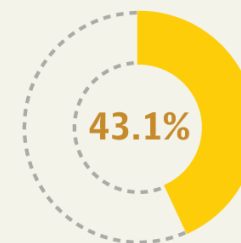
© AMA

Patients with composite primary outcome

Methylprednisolone
74 of 257 patients



Placebo
106 of 246 patients



The primary outcome occurred significantly less frequently in the methylprednisolone group:

Hazard ratio, **0.53**

(95% CI, 0.39 to 0.72); $P < .001$

Absolute annual event rate difference, **-4.8%**
(95% CI, -8.0% to -1.6%)

Targeted-release formulation budesonide

- 201 patients with IgAN
- Targeted release budesonide (n = 97).
- Placebo (n = 102).
- Treatment for 9 months.
- All had optimized RAS blockade.
- Median proteinuria 1.26 g/g.
- 58% of patients had proteinuria \geq 2g/d.
- Median eGFR: 55 mL/min/1.73 m²



Targeted-release formulation budesonide

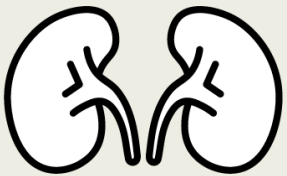
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- Treatment for 9 months.
- All had optimized RAS blockade.
- Median proteinuria 1.26 g/g.
- 58% of patients had proteinuria ≥ 2 g/d.
- Median eGFR: 55 mL/min/1.73 m²
- At 9 months, UPCR was 27% lower compared with placebo, along with an eGFR preservation of 3.87 mL/min/1.73 m² difference versus placebo.
- TEAEs: 86.6% in Targeted release budesonide vs 73% in placebo. Mostly mild to moderate.
- No severe infections requiring hospitalization.



RCT: Effectiveness of Mycophenolate Mofetil Among Patients With Progressive IgA Nephropathy

POPULATION

94 Males, 76 Females



Patients with immunoglobulin A (IgA) nephropathy with proteinuria ≥ 0.75 g/d
Mean age, 36.6 y

INTERVENTION

170 Patients randomized



85 Supportive care (SC) group

Blockade of renin-angiotensin system with losartan, blood pressure control, lifestyle change, and statin as needed

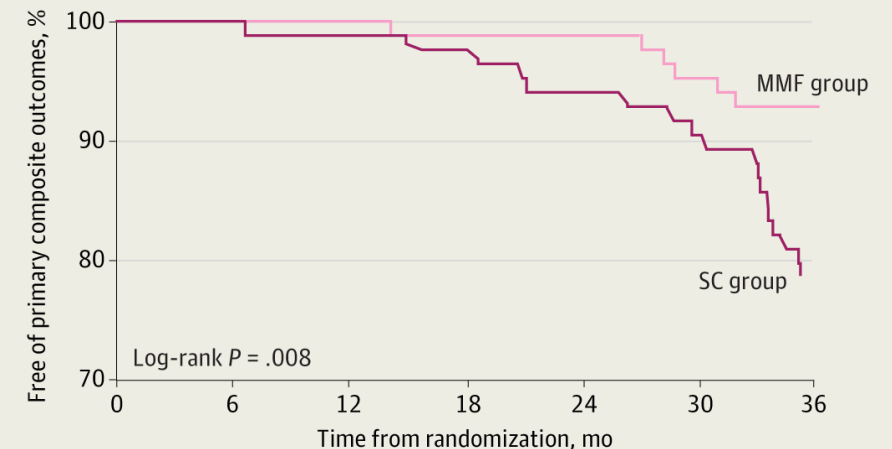


85 Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and SC

SC with oral MMF at 1.5 g/d for 12 mo, then 0.75 to 1.0 g/d for >6 mo

FINDINGS

Addition of MMF to SC, compared with SC alone, significantly reduced the risk of the primary composite outcome and delayed the progression of CKD



SETTINGS / LOCATIONS



1 Kidney center in China

PRIMARY OUTCOME

A composite of doubling of serum creatinine, end-stage kidney disease (dialysis, transplant, kidney failure without kidney replacement therapy), or death due to kidney or cardiovascular cause, and progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD)

Composite kidney outcome, MMF group vs SC group:

7.1% vs 21.2%

aHR, 0.23; 95% CI, 0.09-0.63; $P < .001$

Progression of CKD, MMF group vs SC group:

8.2% vs 27.1%

aHR, 0.23; 95% CI, 0.10-0.57; $P < .001$

IgA Nephropathy Patient Baseline Characteristics in the Sparsentan PROTECT Study



Methods & cohort



Patient characteristics
PROTECT study
(NCT03762850)



Compared to
contemporary IgAN
phase 3 trials



IgA nephropathy



Proteinuria $\geq 1\text{g/d}$
Max tolerated
ACEi &/or ARB

IgAN, IgA Nephropathy; ACEi angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker

PROTECT study

RCT Double blind
International Multicenter
Active controlled

Sparsentan



Single-molecule
endothelin angiotensin
receptor antagonist

vs

Irbesartan



Active control

Patient characteristics



Patient number
N = 404



Median age
46



Stage 3A CKD
35%



Baseline median
24-h urine protein
1.8g/d



Baseline mean BP
129/82



% on max ACEi
or ARB
63.4%

Europe



53%

Asia pacific



27%

North America



20%



In Asian vs non-Asian regions; higher % of females, lower
BPs & lower % baseline hypertension & related treatment

Barratt J et al. 2023

Visual abstract by:
Sophia Ambruso, DO
 @Sophia_kidney

Conclusion Patient enrollment in PROTECT, with differing racial backgrounds and across CKD stages, will allow for important characterization of the treatment effect of sparsentan in IgAN patients with proteinuria at high risk of kidney failure.

Trial* Design

Maximized ACEi/ARB

- ≥12 weeks prior to screening
- ≥50% maximum approved dose

Double-blind treatment
110 weeks, randomized 1:1

4 weeks post cessation
of randomized treatment

**Randomized (1:1) and
received study drug**
(N=404)

- Adults (aged ≥18 years)
- Biopsy-proven IgAN
- UPE ≥1 g/day
- eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m²

Sparsentan
200 mg/day →
400 mg/day at week 2

Irbesartan
150 mg/day →
300 mg/day at week 2

**Study drug
withdrawal period;
resume SOC
ACEi/ARB**

Day -1

Discontinue maximized
ACEi/ARB (**NO washout**)

Week 36

Interim analysis

Week 110

End of randomized treatment

Week 114

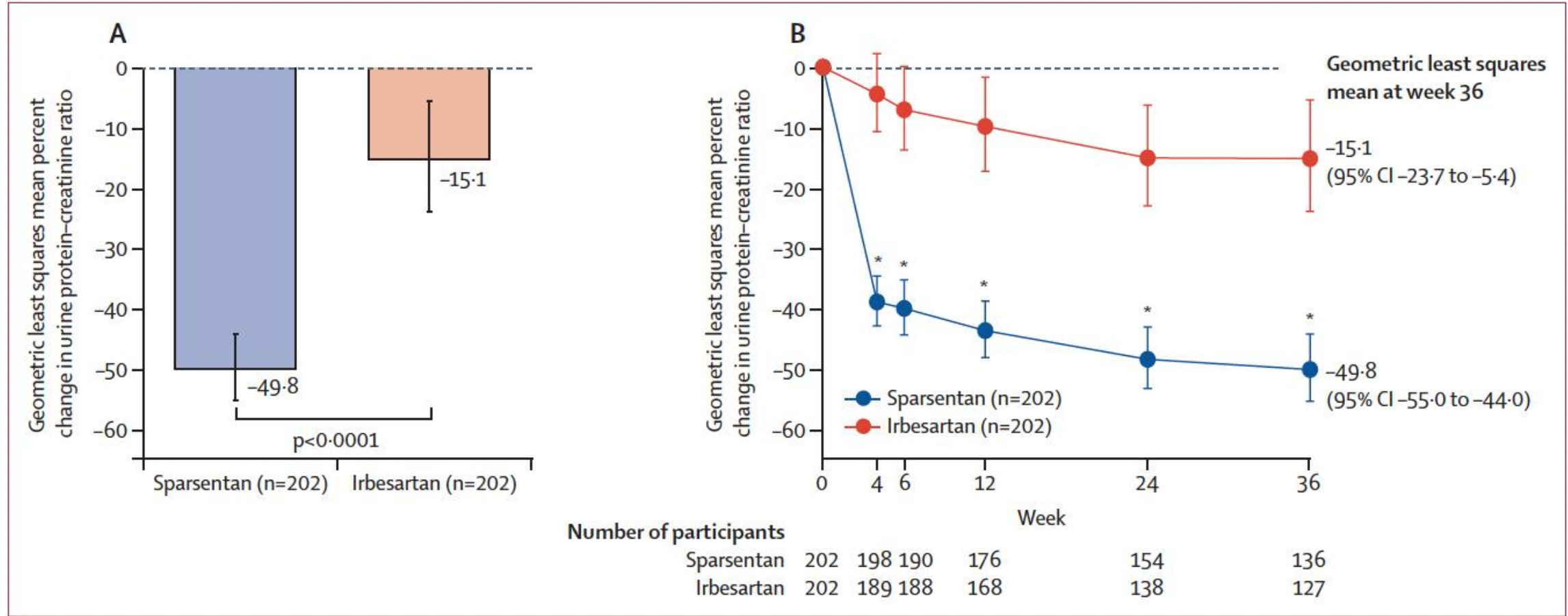
End of double-blind
period

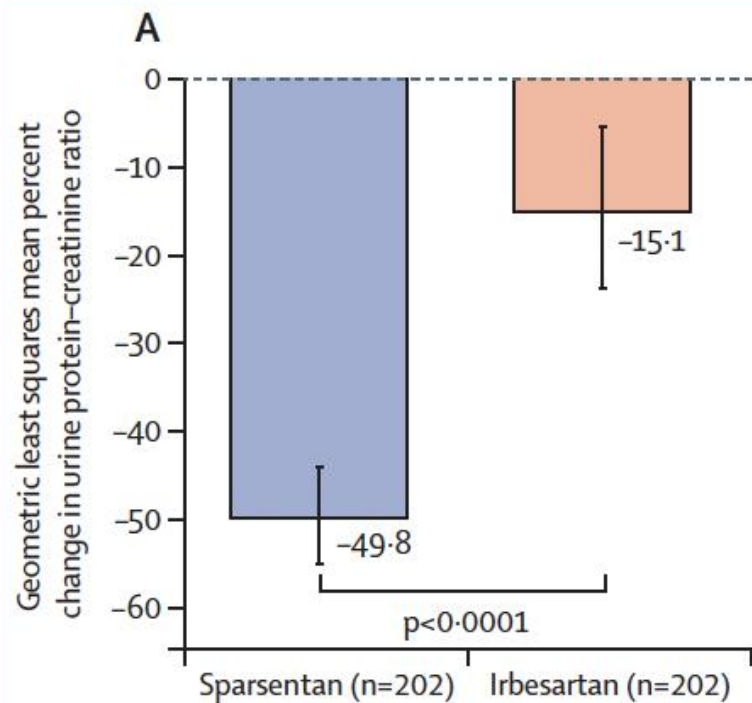
Primary Efficacy Endpoint

Change in UPCR from
baseline to week 36

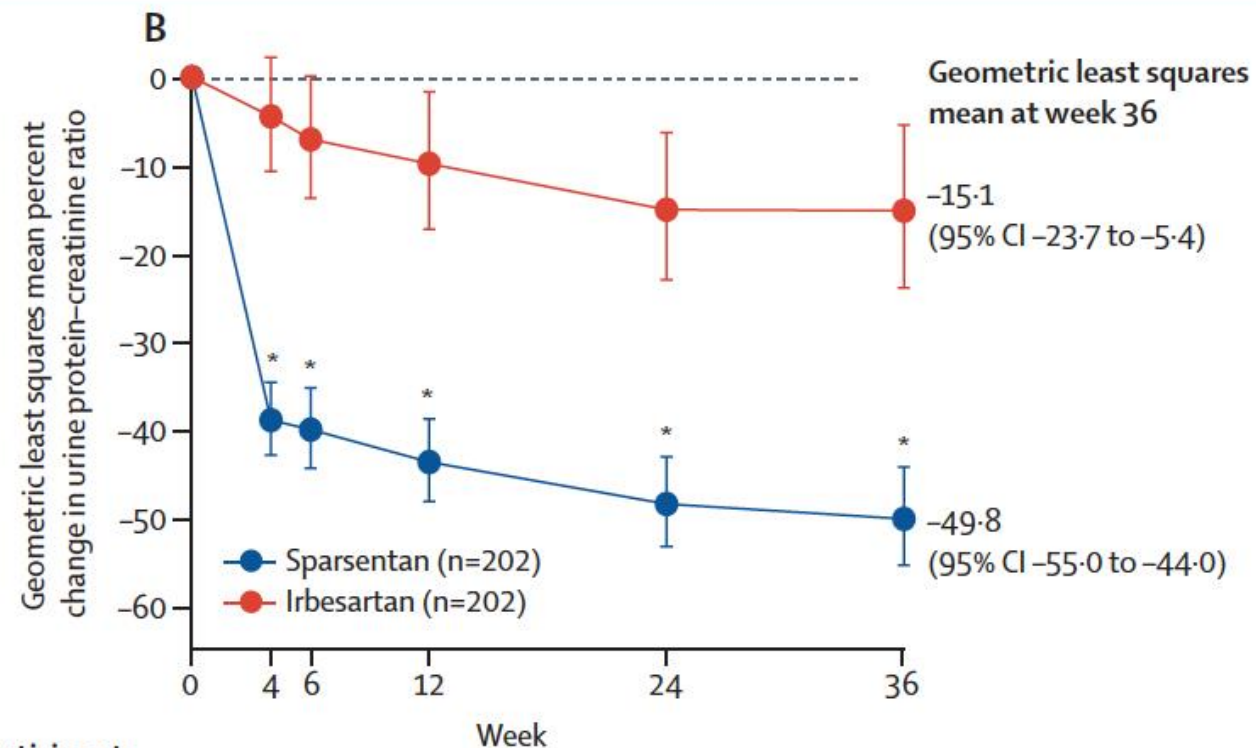
Key Secondary Efficacy Endpoint

eGFR slope: **chronic** (weeks 6-110)
and **total** (day 1-week 110)



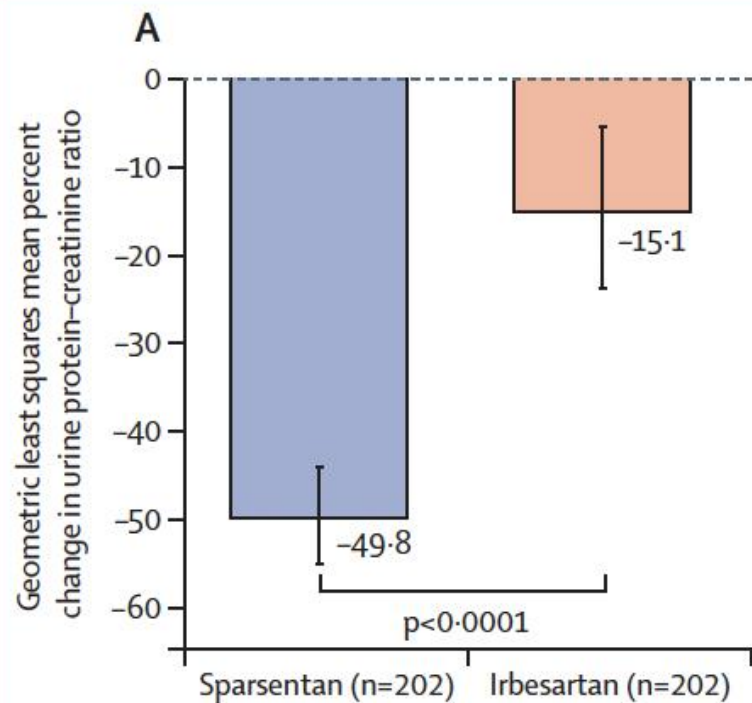


41% RR in proteinuria

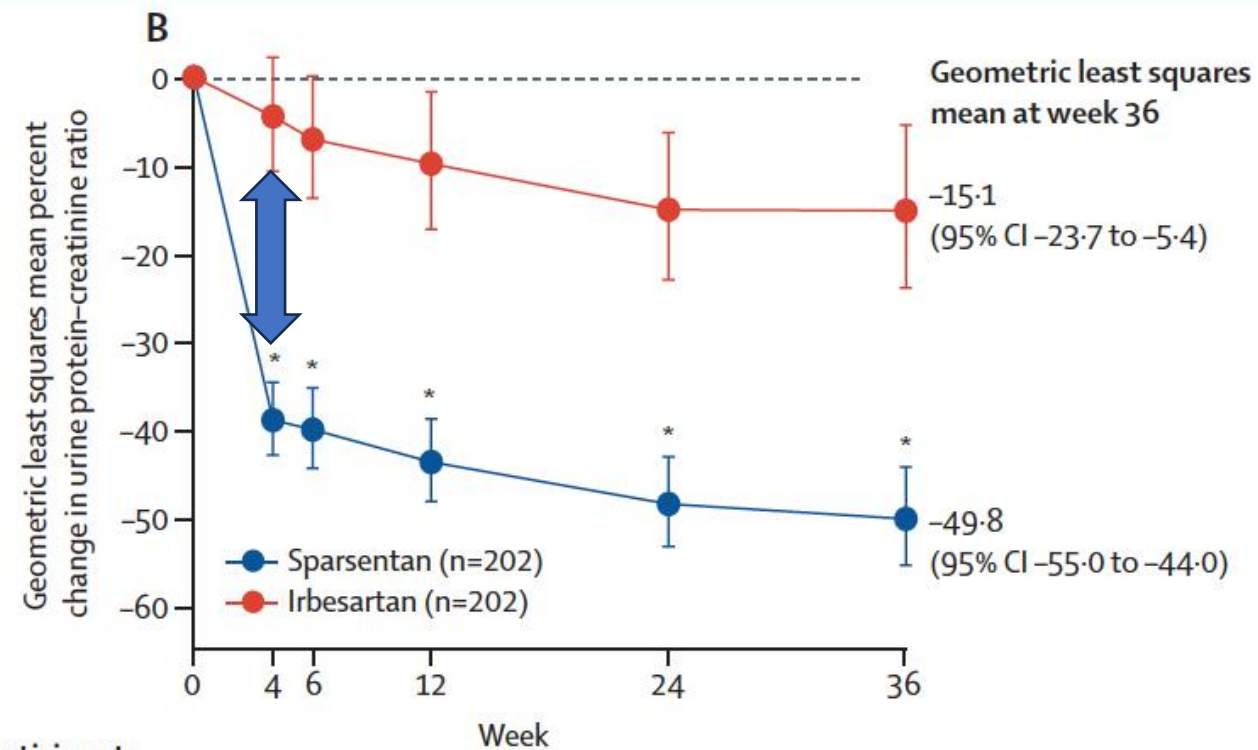


Number of participants

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sparsentan | 202 | 198 | 190 | 176 | 154 | 136 |
| Irbesartan | 202 | 189 | 188 | 168 | 138 | 127 |



41% RR in proteinuria



Number of participants

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sparsentan | 202 | 198 | 190 | 176 | 154 | 136 |
| Irbesartan | 202 | 189 | 188 | 168 | 138 | 127 |

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Atrasentan in Patients with IgA Nephropathy

Hiddo J.L. Heerspink, Ph.D.,¹ Meg Jardine, M.B., B.S., Ph.D.,²
Donald E. Kohan, M.D., Ph.D.,³ Richard A. Lafayette, M.D.,⁴ Adeera Levin, M.D.,⁵
Adrian Liew, M.D.,⁶ Hong Zhang, Ph.D.,⁷ Amit Lodha, M.B., B.S.,⁸
Todd Gray, M.S.P.H.,⁹ Yi Wang, Ph.D.,⁸ Ronny Renfurm, M.D.,¹⁰ and
Jonathan Barratt, M.D.,¹¹ for the ALIGN Study Investigators*

N Engl J Med. 2025 Feb 6;392(6):531-543

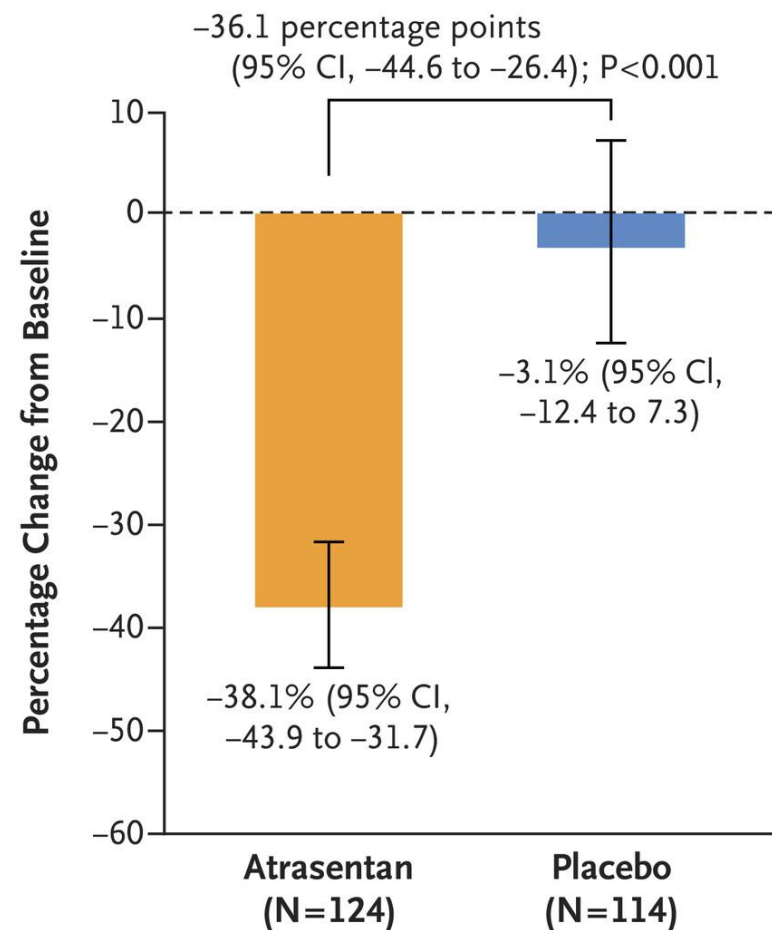


ALIGN – Atresentan in IgAN

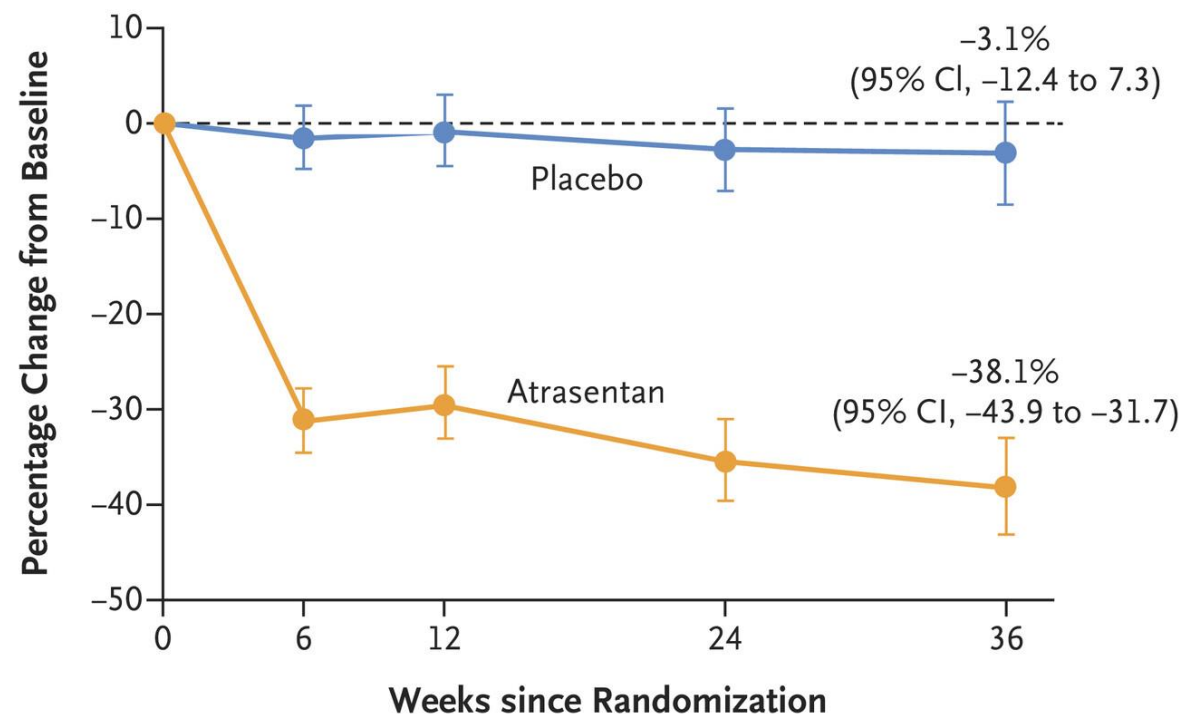
- Phase 3, multinational, double-blind, randomized, controlled trial involving adults with biopsy-proven IgA nephropathy, a total urinary protein excretion of at least 1 g per day, and an estimated glomerular filtration rate of at least 30 ml per minute per 1.73 m² of body-surface area.
- The primary outcome, assessed at a prespecified interim analysis of data from the first 270 patients in the main stratum, was the change in the 24-hour urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio from baseline to week 36; the change was estimated with the use of a repeated-measures model.
- Fluid retention was reported by 19 of 169 patients (11.2%) in the atrasenta group and in 14 of 170 (8.2%) in the placebo group but did not lead to discontinuation of the trial regimen.
- Lesser LFT issues than with sparsentan.



A Change in 24-Hour Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio at Week 36



B Change in 24-Hour Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio at Weeks 6, 12, 24, and 36



No. of Patients

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Placebo | 132 | 129 | 130 | 126 | 114 |
| Atrasentan | 132 | 129 | 125 | 125 | 124 |



B Cell Therapeutics.

- Telitacicept – BAFF / APRIL
- Atacicept – BAFF / APRIL
- Povetacicept – BAFF / APRIL
- Sibeprenlimab – APRIL
- Zikakibart – APRIL



B Cell Therapeutics.

Telitacicept – BAFF / APRIL

- Phase II trial in China.
- 44 IgAN patients.
- eGFR >35 & proteinuria ≥ 0.75 g/d.
- Telitacicept, 160 mg (n=16) or 240 mg (n=14) subcut every week.
- Vs Placebo (n=14).
- Over 24 weeks.



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 - eGFR >35 & proteinuria ≥ 0.75 g/d.
 - Telitacicept, 160 mg (n=16) or 240 mg (n=14) subcut every week.
 - Vs Placebo (n=14).
 - Over 24 weeks.
- Proteinuria (mean change +/- SD).
 - Placebo, 0.03 +/- 1.09 (-0.66 - 0.60).
 - Telitacicept 160, -0.32 +/- 0.82 (-0.75 - 0.12).
 - Telitacicept 240, -0.89 +/- 0.85.
 - EGFR (mean change +/- SD).
 - Placebo, -5.70 +/- 8.99 (-11.41 - 0.01).
 - Telitacicept 160, 4.32 +/- 9.14 (-0.55 - 9.19).
 - Telitacicept 240, 2.34 +/- 5.21 (-0.67 - 5.35).
 - SAEs (percentage).
 - Placebo, 7.10.
 - Telitacicept 160, 6.30.
 - Telitacicept 240, 14.40.



B Cell Therapeutics.

Telitacicept – BAFF / APRIL

- Phase II RCT.
- 24 IgAN patients.
- eGFR >35 & proteinuria \geq 0.75 g/d.
- Telitacicept, 160 mg (n=9) or 240 mg (n=9).
- Vs Placebo (n=8).
- Over 24 weeks.



B Cell Therapeutics.

Telitacicept – BAFF / APRIL

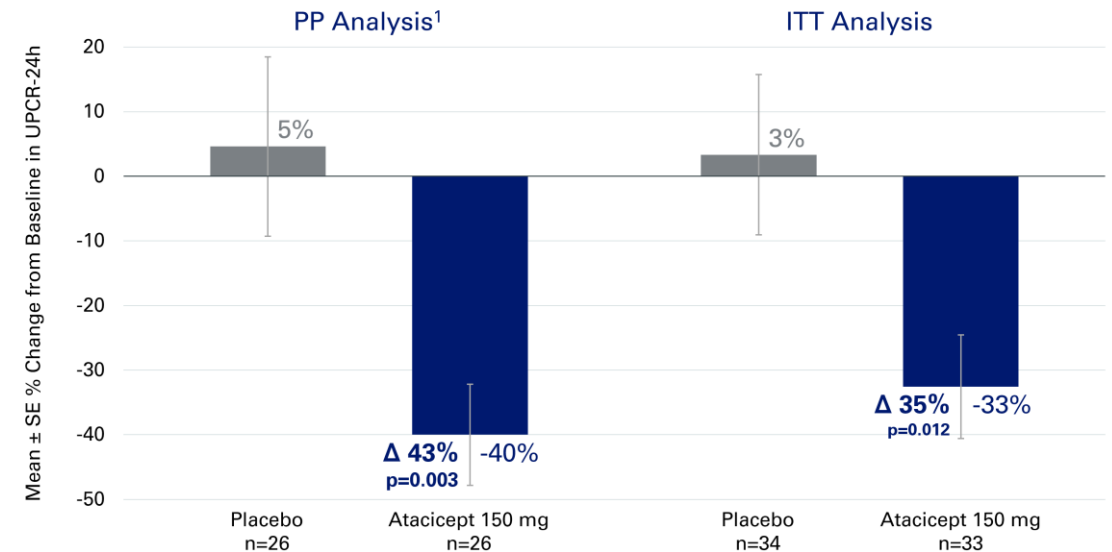
- Phase II RCT.
 - 24 IgAN patients.
 - eGFR >35 & proteinuria ≥ 0.75 g/d.
 - Telitacicept, 160 mg (n=9) or 240 mg (n=9).
 - Vs Placebo (n=8).
 - Over 24 weeks.
- Gd-IgA1, mean decrease % (95% CI).
 - Placebo, Ref.
 - Telitacicept 160, 43.9% (29.8%, 55.1%).
 - Telitacicept 240, 50.4% (38.6%, 59.9%).
 - IgG-IgA IC, mean decrease % (95% CI).
 - Placebo, Ref.
 - Telitacicept 160, 31.7% (14.4%, 45.5%).
 - Telitacicept 240, 42.7% (29.5%, 53.4%).
 - Poly-IgA IC, mean decrease % (95% CI).
 - Placebo, Ref.
 - Telitacicept 160, 41.3% (6.5%, 63.1%).
 - Telitacicept 240, 67.2% (48.5%, 79.1%).



B Cell Therapeutics.

Atacicept – BAFF / APRIL.

At week 36, patients receiving atacicept 150 mg had a statistically significant reduction in proteinuria compared to placebo.



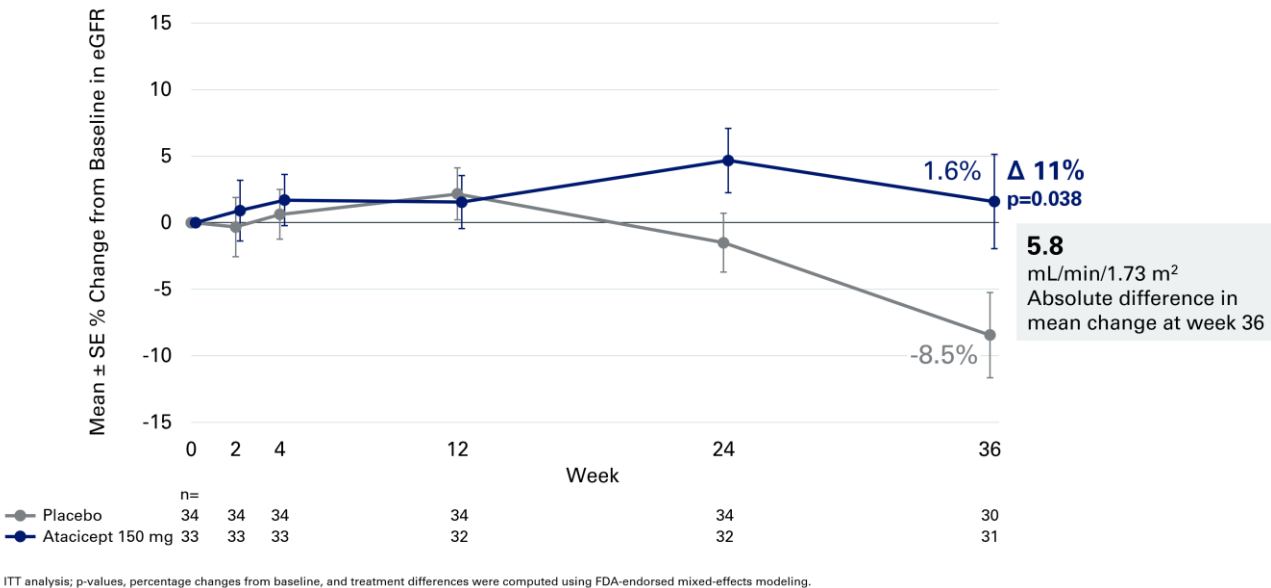
p-values, percentage changes from baseline, and treatment differences were computed using FDA-endorsed mixed-effects modeling which takes into account the effects of baseline UPCR and eGFR.
1. PP analysis excluding patients with protocol violations identified at week 36 data-cut prior to unblinding.



B Cell Therapeutics.

Atacicept – BAFF / APRIL.

Patients receiving atacicept had stable eGFR through week 36, demonstrating a statistically significant and clinically meaningful difference of 5.8 mL/min/1.73 m² compared to placebo at week 36.



Plasma Cell Therapeutics.

- Bortezomib– plasma cell depletion.
- Felzartamab – plasma cell depletion
- Mezagitamab – plasma cell depletion



Plasma Cell Therapeutics.

- Bortezomib– plasma cell depletion** • Three out of eight patients with full remission.
- Pilot open label trial



Plasma Cell Therapeutics.

Felzartamab– plasma cell depletion

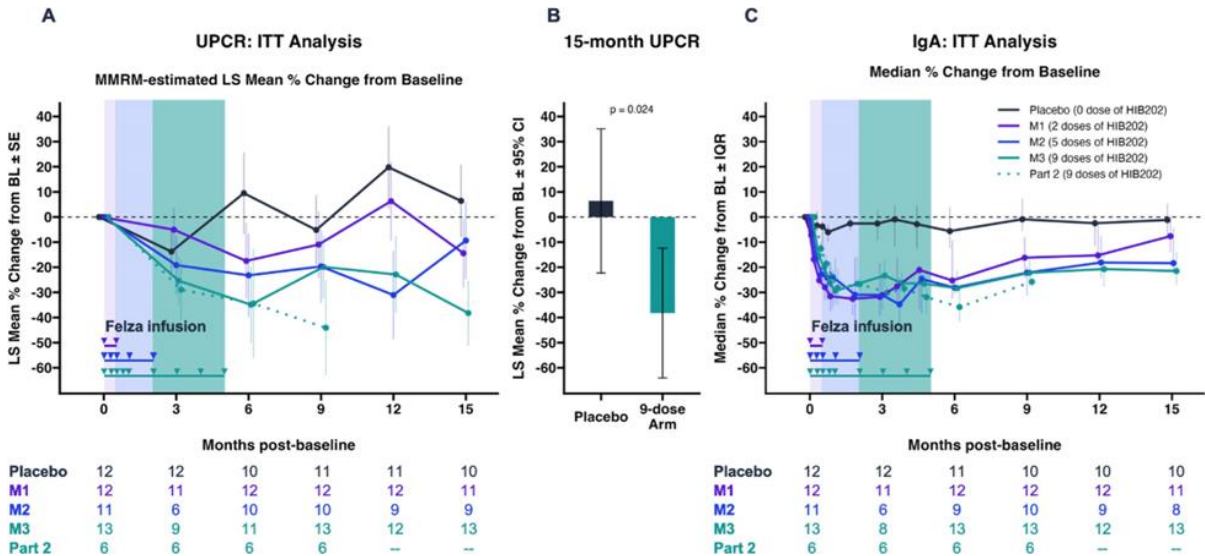
- Phase II randomized trial.
- Multi-center, double blind, placebo controlled.
- 1:1:1:1 allocation with 3 active arms.
- Enrolled 48 subjects, 46 completed.



Plasma Cell Therapeutics.

Felzartamab– plasma cell depletion

- Phase II randomized trial.
- Multi-center, double blind, placebo controlled.
- 1:1:1:1 allocation with 3 active arms.
- Enrolled 48 subjects, 46 completed.



35% reduction at 6mo
38% reduction at 15 mo



Plasma Cell Therapeutics.

Mezagitamab– plasma cell depletion

- Phase Ib open label trial ongoing.



Complement Blockade.

Reduce the burden of the downstream complement activation.

- Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist
- Cemdisiran – C5 in liver
- Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
- Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor
- Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor
- Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor



Complement Blockade.

- **Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist**
 - Cemdisiran – C5 in liver
 - Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
 - Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor
 - Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor
 - Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor
 - IONIS-FB-LRx – Factor B
- Pilot Phase II open label trial.
 - 6/7 patient with uPCR reduction.



Complement Blockade.

- Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist
 - **Cemdisiran – C5 in liver**
 - Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
 - Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor
 - Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor
 - Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor
 - IONIS-FB-LRx – Factor B
- Phase II trial results Jun 2022
 - Descriptive
 - 31 subjects, 22 on Cemdisiran and 9 on placebo.
 - UPCR at 32 weeks:
 - 37% reduction with Cemdisiran
 - 90% CI 0-61



Complement Blockade.

- Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist
 - Cemdisiran – C5 in liver
 - Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
 - **Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor**
 - Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor
 - Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor
 - IONIS-FB-LRx – Factor B
- Phase II trial
 - Second part was randomized, placebo controlled, involved 9 patients.
 - 8 patients entered open extension.
 - Median proteinuria reduction: 61.4% at 31-54 weeks.
- Phase III trial
 - Terminated early due to lack of efficacy.



Complement Blockade.

- Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist
 - Cemdisiran – C5 in liver
 - Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
 - Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor
 - **Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor**
 - Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor
 - IONIS-FB-LRx – Factor B
- Phase II randomized double blind trial.
 - 33.1% reduction in proteinuria at 26w.



Complement Blockade.

- Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist
 - Cemdisiran – C5 in liver
 - Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
 - Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor
 - Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor
 - **Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor**
 - IONIS-FB-LRx – Factor B
- Phase II single arm open label.
 - Proteinuria response at 48 weeks.
 - Results awaited.



Complement Blockade.

- Avacopan – C5a receptor antagonist
 - Cemdisiran – C5 in liver
 - Iptacopan – Factor B inhibitor
 - Narsoplimab – MASP2 inhibitor
 - Ravulizumab – C5 inhibitor
 - Pegcetacoplan – C3 inhibitor
 - **IONIS-FB-LRx – Factor B**
- Phase II open label study.
 - 8/10 pts with uPCR reduction at 29w.
 - Phase III randomized, double blind, placebo controlled trial is ongoing.



Results of a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled Phase 2 study propose iptacopan as an alternative complement pathway inhibitor for IgA nephropathy.

kidney
INTERNATIONAL



Methods

PHASE 2



Proof of concept,
dose-ranging
study



Double-blind



Randomized



Biopsy-confirmed
primary IgA
nephropathy

Intervention



Iptacopan versus placebo
(administered orally, twice daily)

Part 1 (3-month treatment)



(N=46)

Iptacopan 10 mg
Iptacopan 50 mg
Iptacopan 200 mg
Placebo

Part 2 (6-month treatment)



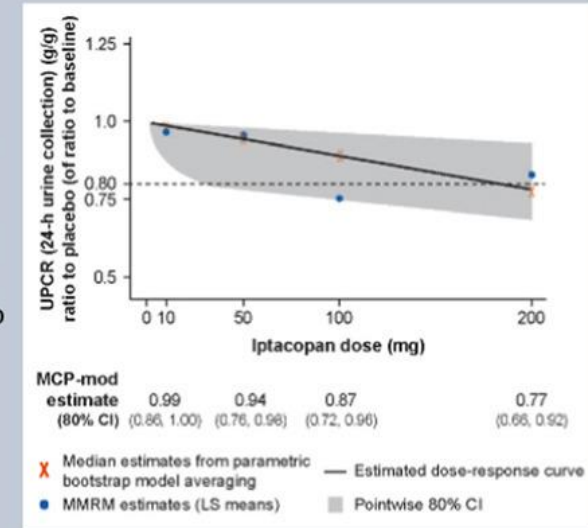
(N=66)

Iptacopan 10 mg
Iptacopan 50 mg
Iptacopan 100 mg
Iptacopan 200 mg
Placebo

Findings

Primary analysis:

- Statistically significant dose-response effect observed ($P=0.038$), with a 23% (80% CI: 8–34) reduction in UPCR from baseline achieved with iptacopan 200 mg vs placebo at 3 months



Secondary analysis:

- Strong inhibition of several biomarkers of alternative complement activity (plasma Bb, Wieslab assay in serum, and urinary sC5b-9) observed; maximal inhibition observed with iptacopan 200 mg that was sustained through month 6

Zhang, 2023

CONCLUSION

This is the first study to show that selective inhibition of alternative pathway with iptacopan 200 mg results in a clinically meaningful reduction in proteinuria in patients with IgA nephropathy



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Alternative Complement Pathway Inhibition with Iptacopan in IgA Nephropathy

V. Perkovic,¹ J. Barratt,² B. Rovin,³ N. Kashihara,⁴ B. Maes,⁵ H. Zhang,⁶ H. Trimarchi,⁷ D. Kollins,⁸ O. Papachristofi,⁸
S. Jacinto-Sanders,⁸ T. Merkel,⁸ N. Guerard,⁸ R. Renfurm,⁸ T. Hach,⁸ and D.V. Rizk,⁹ for the APPLAUSE-IgAN Investigators*

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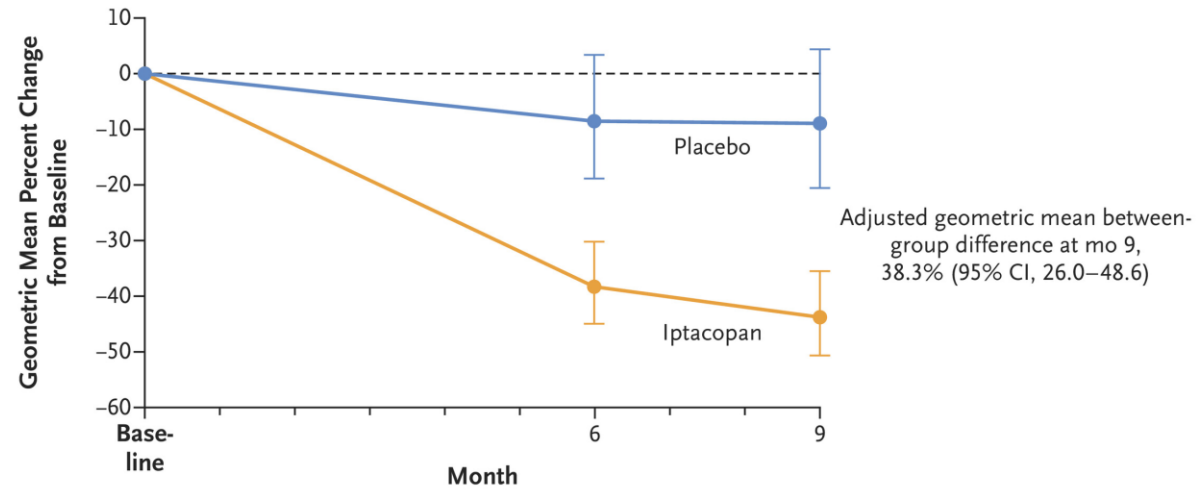


APPLAUSE-IgAN – Iptacopan in IgAN

- Phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial, we enrolled adults with biopsy-confirmed IgA nephropathy and proteinuria (defined as a 24-hour urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio of ≥ 1 [with protein and creatinine both measured in grams]) despite optimized supportive therapy.
- Patients were randomly assigned, in a 1:1 ratio, 222 patients in the iptacopan group and 221 in the placebo group, to receive oral iptacopan (200 mg) or placebo twice daily for 24 months while continuing to receive supportive therapy.
- The primary objective of this prespecified interim analysis was to assess the efficacy of iptacopan as compared with that of placebo in reducing proteinuria at month 9.



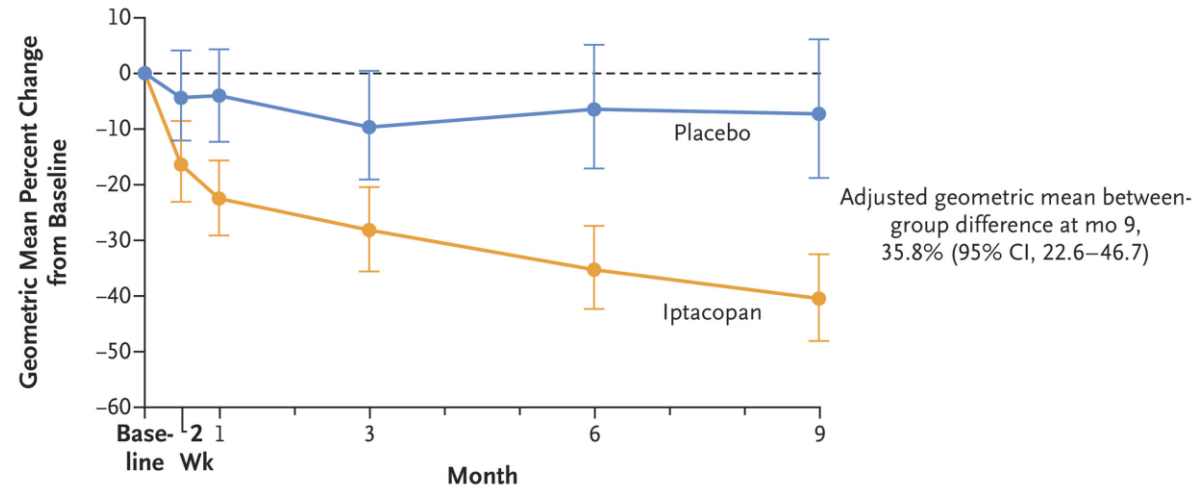
A Change in 24-Hr Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio



No. of Patients

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|
| Placebo | 125 | 112 | 106 |
| Iptacopan | 125 | 115 | 118 |

B Change in Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio from First Morning Urine Sample



No. of Patients

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Placebo | 123 | 120 | 114 | 113 | 110 | 104 |
| Iptacopan | 124 | 116 | 116 | 119 | 114 | 115 |



Trials in GNs other than IgAN

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

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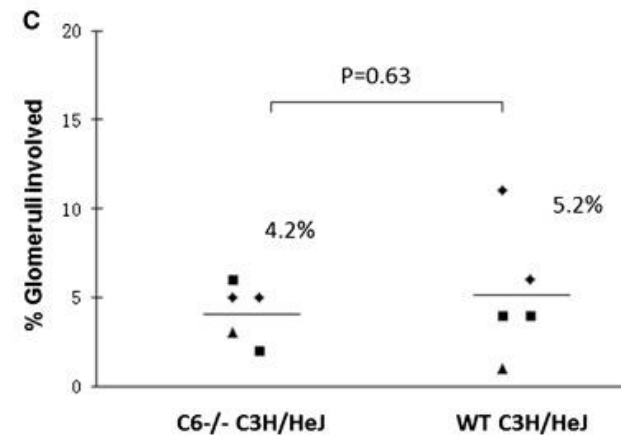
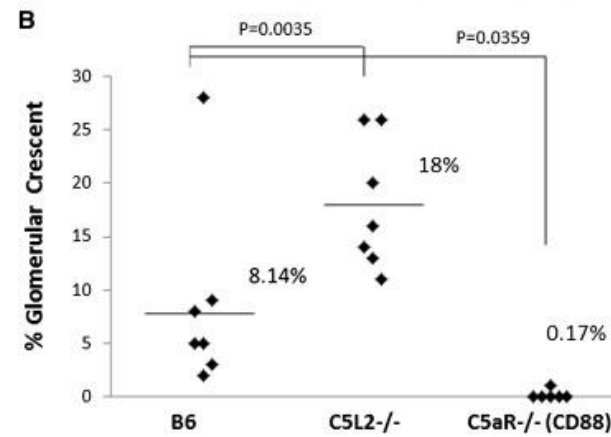
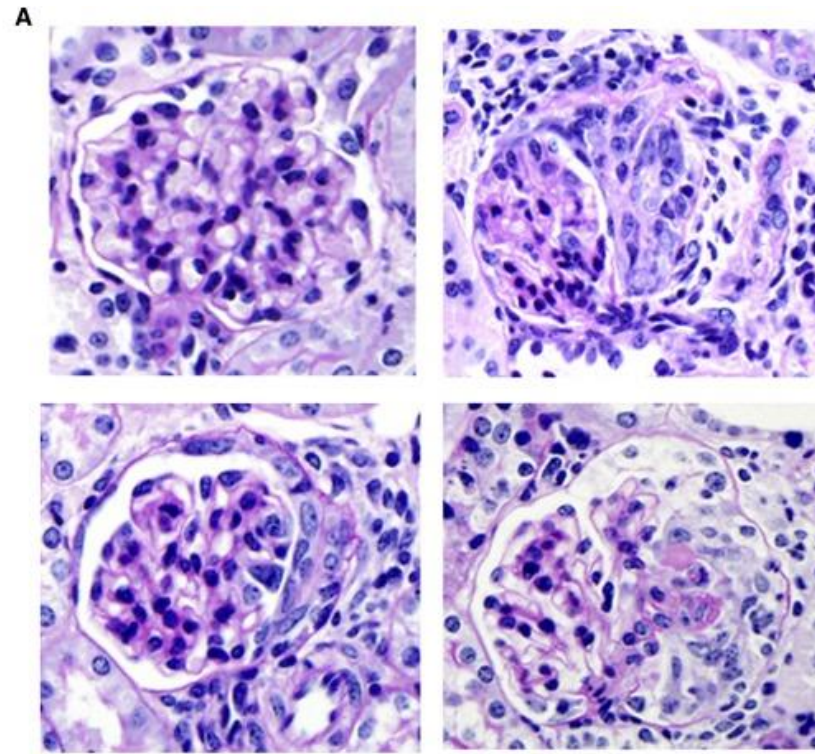
C5a Receptor (CD88) Blockade Protects against MPO-ANCA GN

Hong Xiao,^{*†} Daniel J. Dairaghi,[‡] Jay P. Powers,[‡] Linda S. Ertl,[‡] Trageen Baumgart,[‡] Yu Wang,[‡] Lisa C. Seitz,[‡] Mark E.T. Penfold,[‡] Lin Gan,[§] Peiqi Hu,^{*†} Bao Lu,[§] Norma P. Gerard,^{||} Craig Gerard,^{||} Thomas J. Schall,[‡] Juan C. Jaen,[‡] Ronald J. Falk,^{*†} and J. Charles Jennette^{*†}

^{*}Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and [†]UNC Kidney Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; [‡]ChemoCentryx, Inc., Mountain View, California; [§]Department of Ophthalmology, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York; and ^{||}Department of Pediatrics, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

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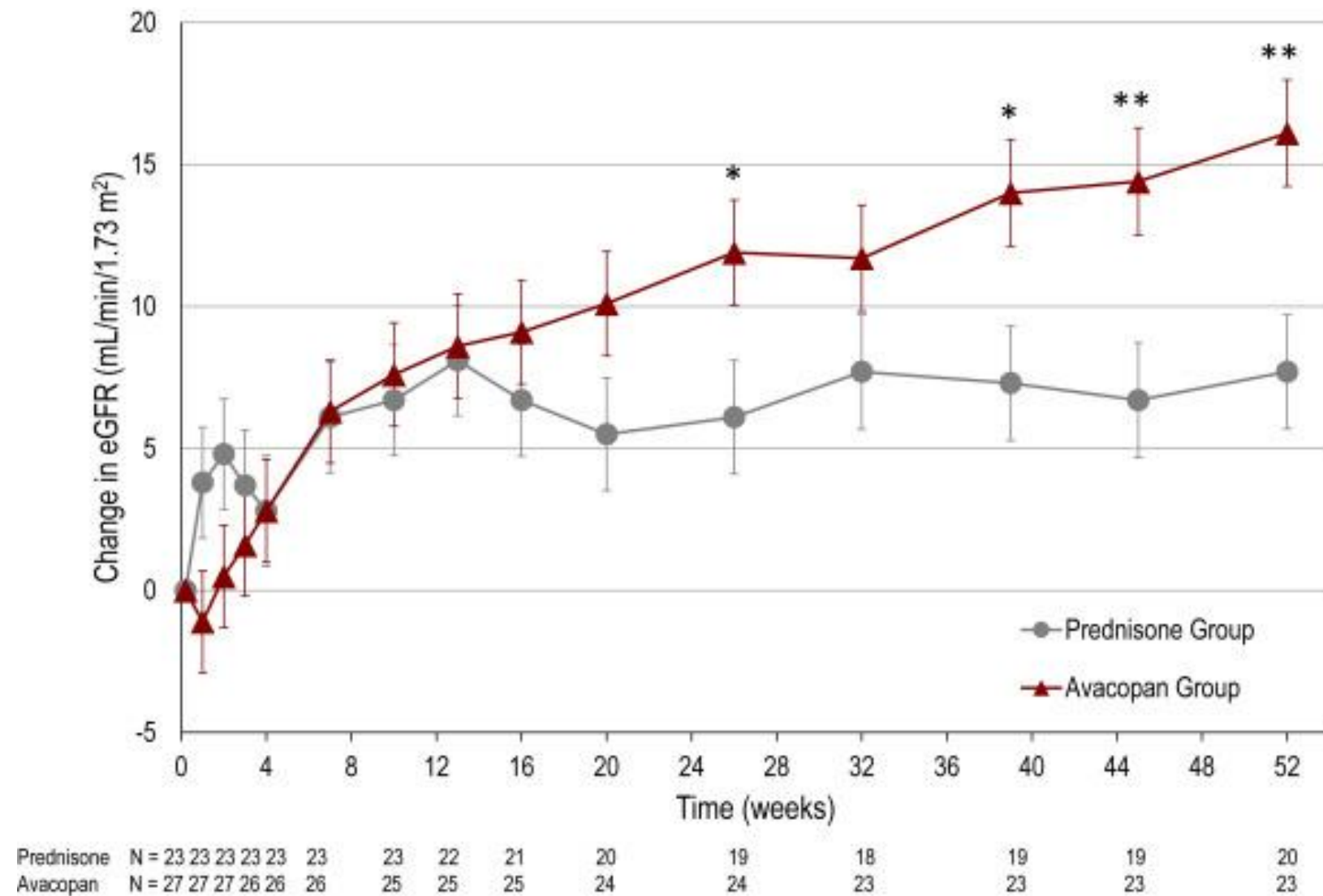
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Avacopan for the Treatment of ANCA-Associated Vasculitis

David R.W. Jayne, M.D., Peter A. Merkel, M.D., M.P.H., Thomas J. Schall, Ph.D., and Pirow Bekker, M.D, Ph.D.,
for the ADVOCATE Study Group*





TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- There is a revolution of therapeutics in the GN arena.
- Long term outcome data is needed to prove efficiency.
- Prudent to discuss clinical trials with patients upfront.
- Individualized approach.

