



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## Biologics in Pediatric Atopic Dermatitis

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# Disclosures

- Advisory Board Member – Incyte, Regeneron, Sanofi, Arcutis
- Consultant – Dermavant, Nobelpharma
- Speaker – Sanofi and Regeneron, Amgen

Dupilumab

# Dupilumab

- Approved age 6 months and older for moderate to severe atopic dermatitis
- MOA: binding to alpha subunit of IL-4Ralpha blocking IL4 and IL13
- Dosing:
  - Weight based dosing of 200mg or 300mg every 2/4 weeks

# Updates in Dupilumab- Vaccines

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Pediatric  
Dermatology WILEY

## A case series of live attenuated vaccine administration in dupilumab-treated children with atopic dermatitis



Elaine C. Siegfried MD<sup>1,2</sup> | Lara Wine Lee MD, PhD<sup>3</sup> |  
Jonathan M. Spergel MD, PhD<sup>4</sup> | Randy Prescilla MD<sup>5</sup> | Sumeet Uppal MS<sup>6</sup> |  
Anna Coleman MS<sup>7</sup> | Ashish Bansal MD, MBA<sup>6</sup> | Sonya L. Cyr PhD, MBA<sup>6</sup> |  
Brad Shumel MD<sup>6</sup>

- 9 children had protocol deviations and received MMR-V vaccine during phase 2/3 and open label extension
- Of these 9, 5 patients had an interval between last dupilumab and vaccination of 1–7 weeks, (during which serum dupilumab concentrations would still be detectable)
- Among these 5 patients, 1 resumed dupilumab treatment as early as 2 days and 4 resumed treatment 18–43 days after vaccination. No adverse events were reported

# Dupilumab- Long term infections

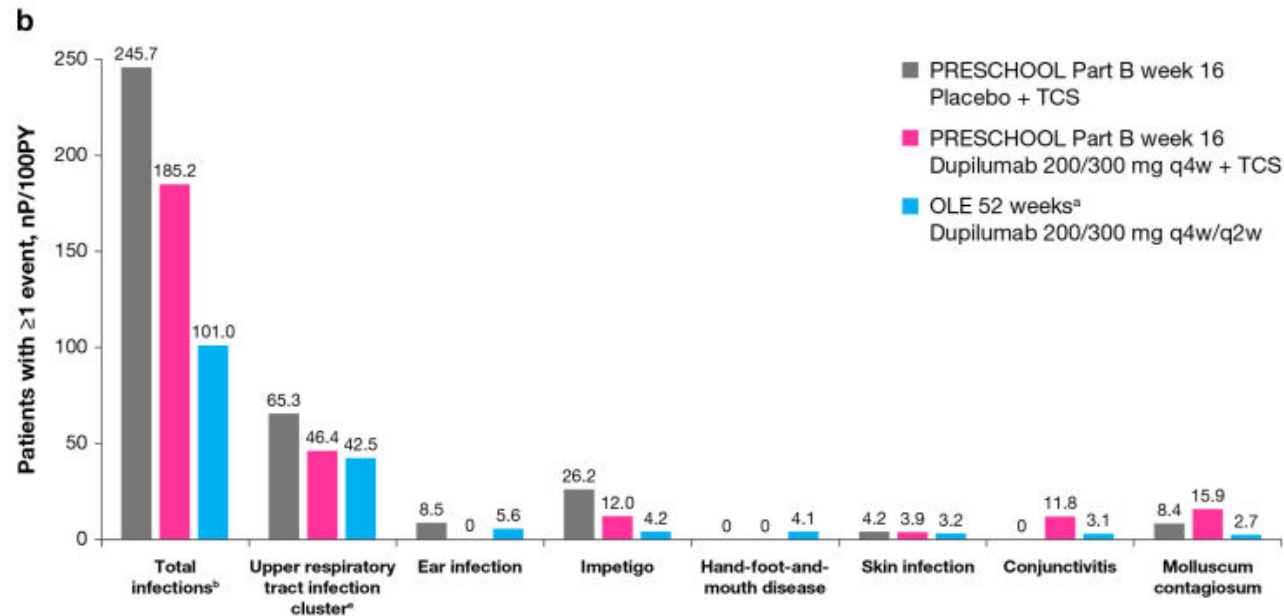
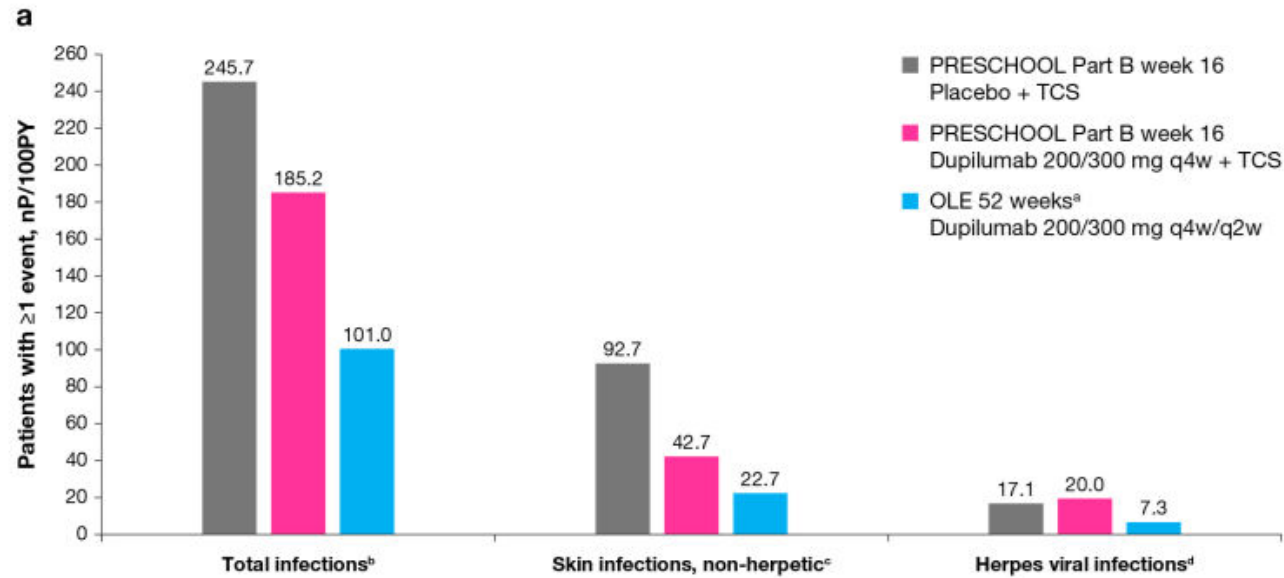
ORIGINAL ARTICLE **OPEN ACCESS**

## **Low Infection Rates With Long-Term Dupilumab Treatment in Patients Aged 6 Months to 5 Years: An Open-Label Extension Study**

Amy S. Paller<sup>1,2</sup> | Michele Ramien<sup>3,4</sup>  | Michael J. Cork<sup>5,6</sup> | Eric L. Simpson<sup>7</sup> | Lara Wine Lee<sup>8</sup> | Lawrence F. Eichenfield<sup>9,10</sup> | Faisal A. Khokhar<sup>11</sup> | Anna Coleman<sup>12</sup> | Guy Gherardi<sup>13</sup> | Zhen Chen<sup>11</sup> | Annie Zhang<sup>14</sup> | Sonya L. Cyr<sup>11</sup> 

- Age 6 months to 5 years in trials who then subsequently enrolled in the open label extension
- Concomitant topical corticosteroids, antihistamines, and topical calcineurin inhibitors were permitted without restriction
- 180 patients

# Dupilumab- Lower infection rates in long term use



# Reduced atopic march with dupilumab

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**Reduced atopic march risk in pediatric atopic dermatitis patients prescribed dupilumab versus conventional immunomodulatory therapy: A population-based cohort study**



Teng-Li Lin, MD,<sup>a,b</sup> Yi-Hsuan Fan, MD,<sup>c</sup> Kuo-Sheng Fan, MD,<sup>d</sup> Chao-Kuei Juan, MD,<sup>e</sup>  
Yi-Ju Chen, MD, PhD,<sup>e,f,g</sup> and Chun-Ying Wu, MD, MPH, PhD<sup>g,h,i,j</sup>

- The 3-year cumulative incidence of atopic march progression was lower in the dupilumab cohort than the conventional cohort (20.09% vs 27.22%;  $P < .001$ ). Conventional cohort included MTX, CsA, steroids, azathioprine. Study excluded patients with prior h/o asthma or rhinitis.
- The DUPI cohort demonstrated significant risk reduction in atopic march progression (hazard ratio [HR] 0.68, 95% CI 0.55-0.83), individual asthma (HR 0.60, 0.45-0.81), and individual allergic rhinitis (HR 0.69, 0.54-0.88). **Younger patients on dupilumab exhibited a greater risk reduction**
- This suggests increased plasticity in type 2 immunity in younger AD patients



# Dupilumab and food allergies?

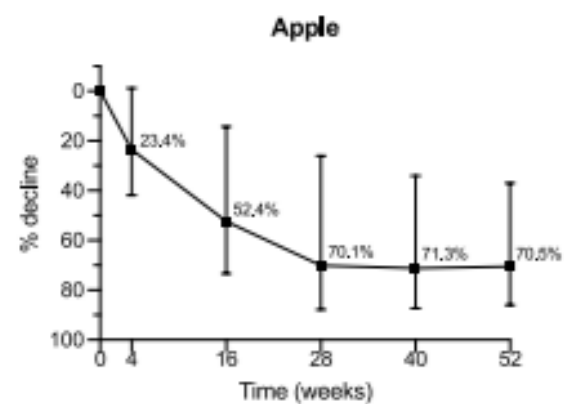
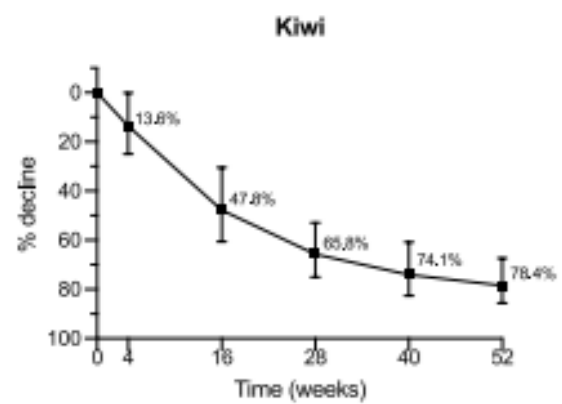
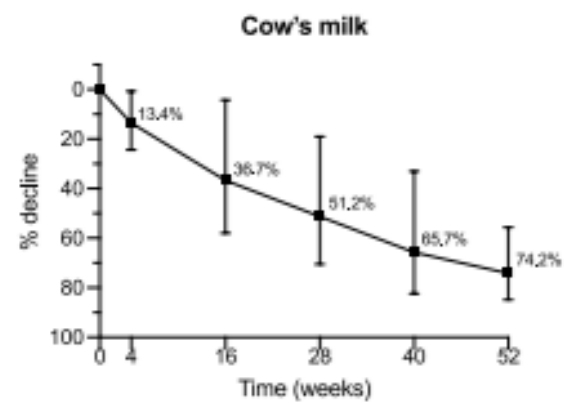
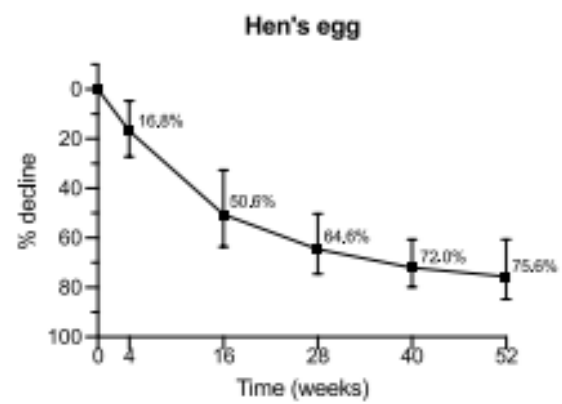
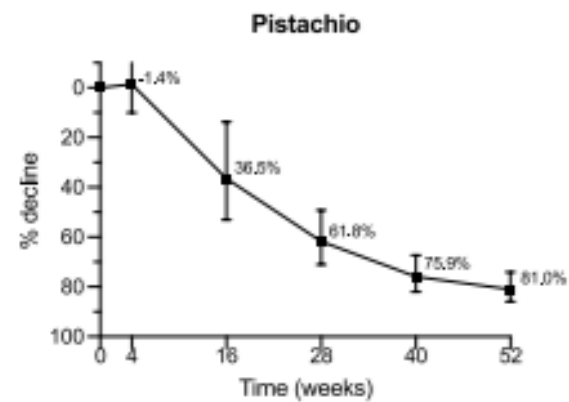
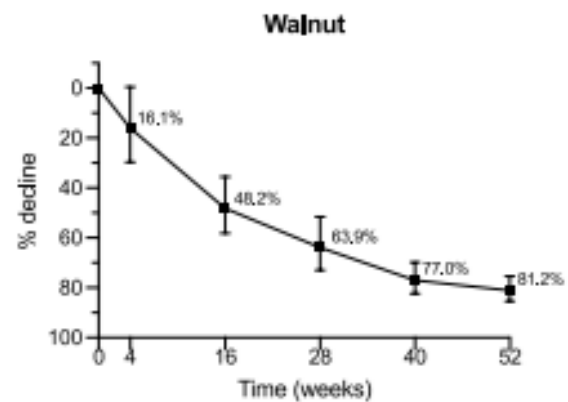
LETTER

## Dupilumab induces a significant decrease of food specific immunoglobulin E levels in pediatric atopic dermatitis patients

Lisa P. van der Rijst<sup>1,2</sup>  | Michelle S. Hilbrands<sup>2</sup> | Nicolaas P. A. Zuithoff<sup>3</sup> |  
Marjolein S. de Bruin-Weller<sup>2</sup> | André C. Knulst<sup>2</sup> | Thuy-My Le<sup>2</sup> | Marlies de Graaf<sup>1,2</sup> 



- Pediatric AD patients (aged 4–17 years) treated with dupilumab with a suggestive clinical history of food allergy for peanut, hazelnut, cashew nut, pistachio, almond, walnut, hen's egg, cow's milk, kiwi, and/or apple with a corresponding positive serum IgE ( $\geq 0.35$  kU/L) at the start of treatment (baseline), were included. Serum IgE levels were measured at baseline and at least once during 1 year of follow-up
- Decrease of serum IgE levels in 10 common food allergens in food allergic pediatric patients with moderate to severe AD, ranging from 70.5% to 82.5% after 1 year of dupilumab treatment
- Still need further studies including oral food challenge before, during and after treatment to objectify whether dupilumab treatment leads to a higher threshold and/or less severe food allergy symptoms



Lebrikizumab

# Lebrikizumab

- Approved for moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in age 12 and older
- A monoclonal antibody that binds with high affinity and slow off-rate to interleukin (IL)-13
- Dosing: subcutaneous lebrikizumab 500 mg loading doses at baseline and Week 2, followed by 250 mg every 2 weeks thereafter
  - **If adequate clinical response is seen by week 16, can use maintenance dosing of 250mg every 4 weeks**

# Lebrikizumab Efficacy

RESEARCH ARTICLE

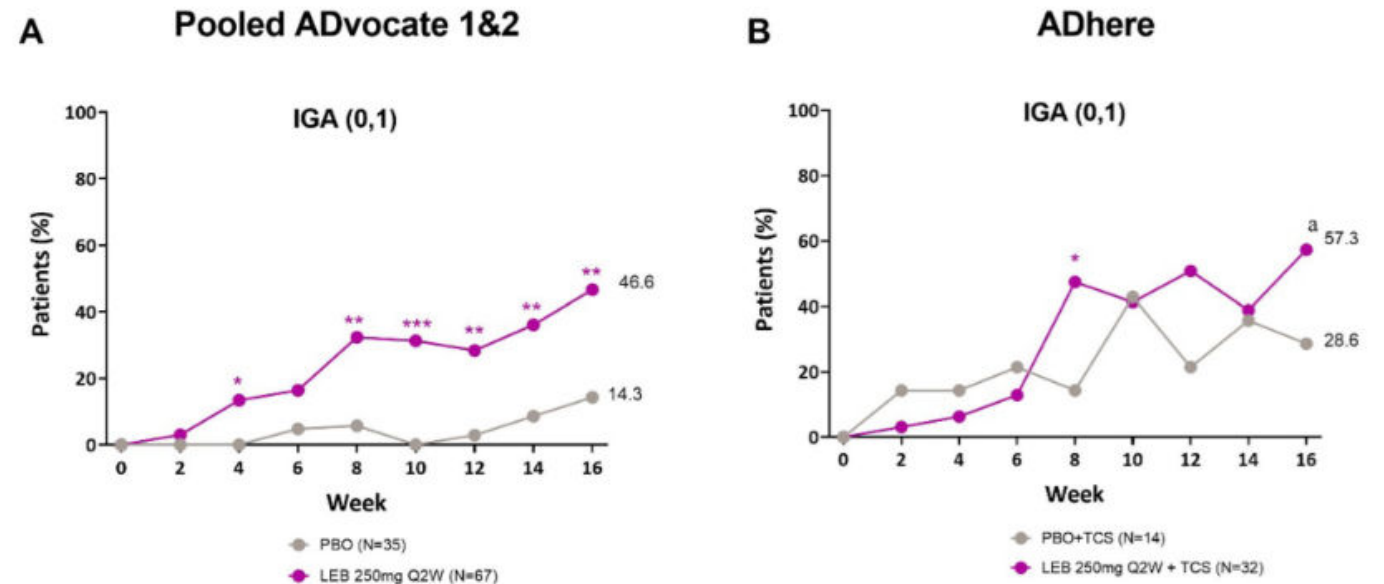
OPEN ACCESS [Check for updates](#)

## Efficacy of lebrikizumab in adolescent patients with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis: 16-week results from three randomized phase 3 clinical trials

Adelaide A. Hebert<sup>a</sup>, Carsten Flohr<sup>b</sup>, H. Chih-ho Hong<sup>c</sup>, Alan D. Irvine<sup>d</sup>, Evangeline Pierce<sup>e</sup>, Hany Elmaraghy<sup>f</sup>, Sreekumar Pillai<sup>g</sup>, Zach Dawson<sup>h</sup>, Sherry Chen<sup>i</sup>, Clara Armengol<sup>g</sup>, Elaine Siegfried<sup>h</sup> and Stephan Weidinger<sup>i</sup>

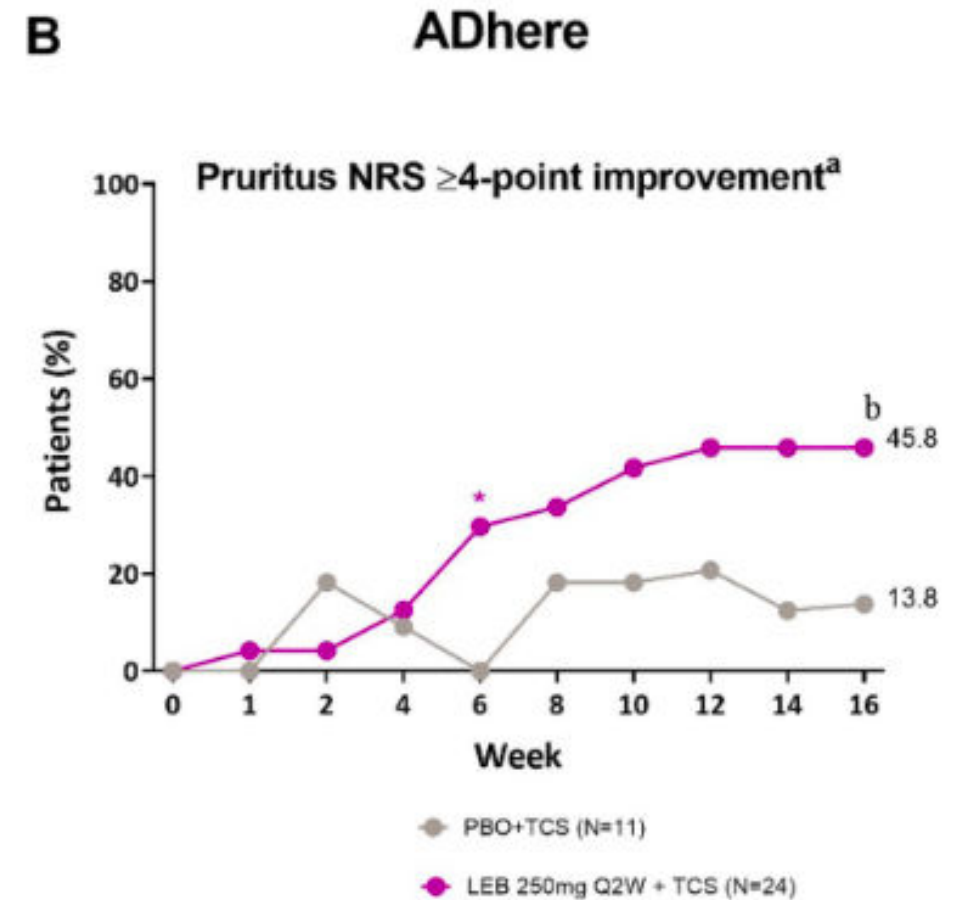
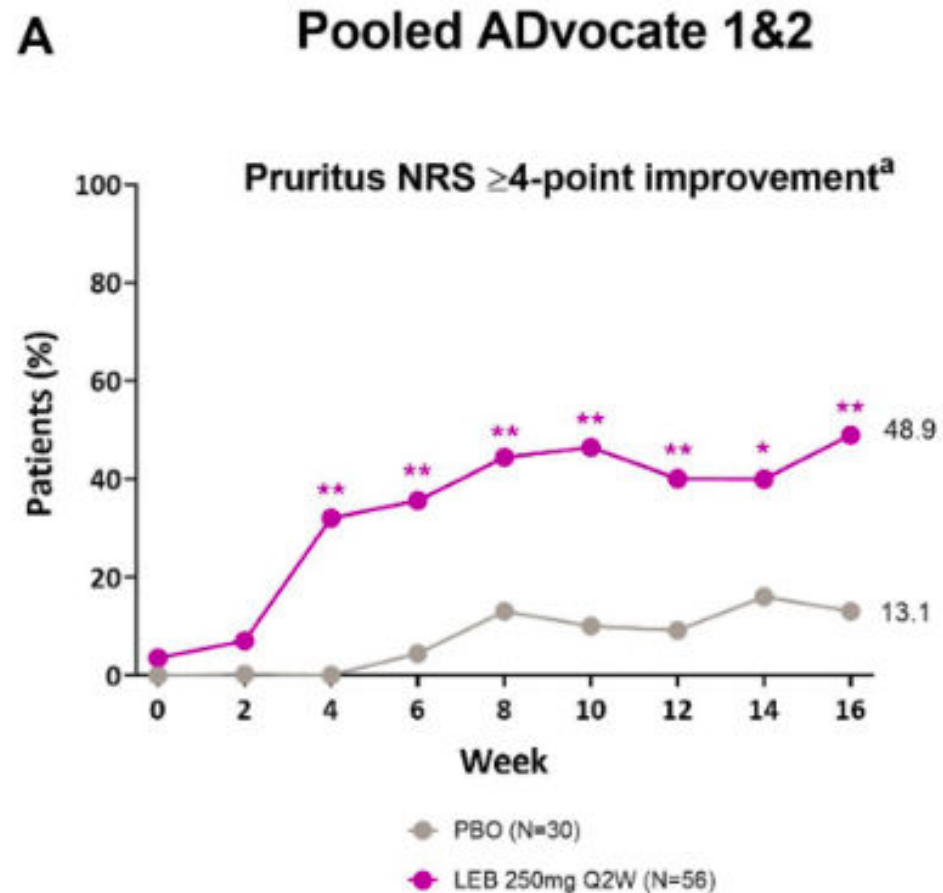
<sup>a</sup>UTHealth McGovern Medical School, Houston, Texas, USA; <sup>b</sup>St John's Institute of Dermatology, King's College London, London, UK; <sup>c</sup>University of British Columbia, and Probit Medical Research, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada; <sup>d</sup>Clinical Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland; <sup>e</sup>Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA; <sup>f</sup>Tigermed, Somerset, New Jersey, USA; <sup>g</sup>Almirall S.A., Barcelona, Spain; <sup>h</sup>Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, USA; <sup>i</sup>University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany

- ADhere allowed to use TCS and TCI during study



**Figure 1.** Adolescent time-course response for IGA (0, 1) with  $\geq 2$ -point improvement from baseline. Percentage of patients (%) with IGA (0, 1) and  $\geq 2$ -point reduction from baseline to Week 16 in the ADvocate (A) and ADhere (B) studies. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , <sup>a</sup> $p = 0.104$  vs PBO using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test adjusted by study (only for pooled ADvocate1 and ADvocate2), geographic region, and disease severity. IGA=Investigator's Global Assessment; LEB=lebrikizumab; PBO=placebo; Q2W=every 2 weeks; TCS=topical corticosteroids.

# Lebrikizumab Itch Reduction, significant by week 4



# Lebrikizumab Safety

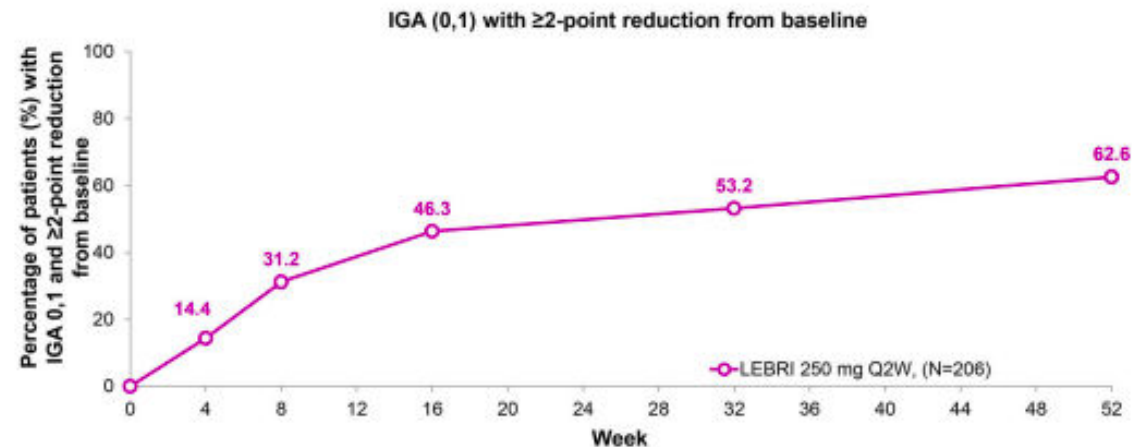
- Most common SE were nasopharyngitis (9.7%), COVID-19 infection (8.7%), upper respiratory tract infection (6.3%), headache (5.8%), and oral herpes (5.3%).
- AEs of special interest (AESIs) included conjunctivitis cluster (n = 14, 6.8%), herpes infection (n = 15, 7.3%), and parasitic infections (0%)

# Lebrikizumab 52 week Open Label Extension

## Safety and Efficacy of Lebrikizumab in Adolescent Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis: A 52-Week, Open-Label, Phase 3 Study

Amy S. Paller · Carsten Flohr · Lawrence F. Eichenfield · Alan D. Irvine · Jamie Weisman · Jennifer Soung · Ana Pinto Correia · Chitra R. Natalie · Claudia Rodriguez Capriles · Evangeline Pierce · Sarah Reifeis · Renata Gontijo Lima · Clara Armengol Tubau · Vivian Laquer · Stephan Weidinger

- 62% achieving endpoint of IGA 0 or 1



**Fig. 3** Time course response for IGA (0,1) with  $\geq 2$ -point reduction from baseline. Percentage of patients (%) with IGA 0,1 and  $\geq 2$ -point reduction from baseline through 52 weeks. A total of 62.6% of patients ( $N = 129$ ) achieved IGA 0 or 1 with  $\geq 2$ -point reduction from

baseline at Week 52. Missing data due to lack of efficacy were imputed with non-responder imputation. Other missing data were imputed with multiple imputation. Abbreviations: *IGA* Investigator's Global Assessment, *LEBRI* lebrikizumab, *Q2W* every 2 weeks

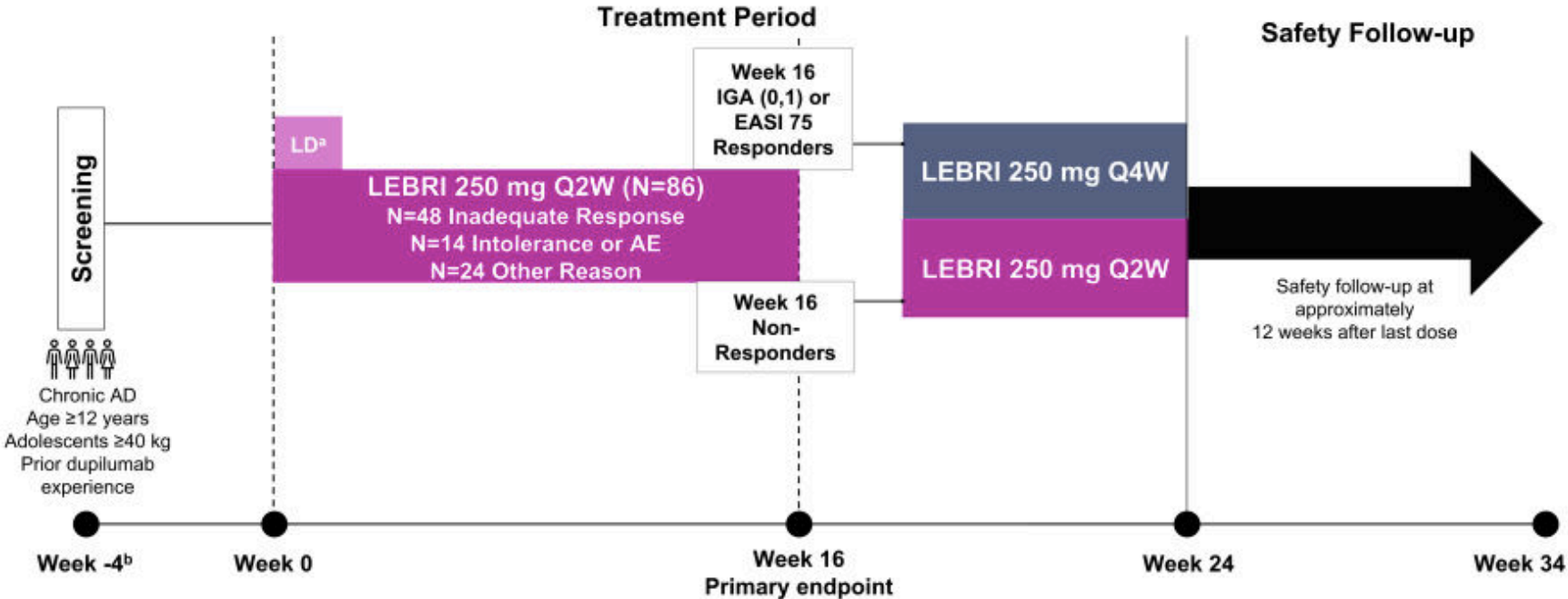


# Lebrikizumab Use in Prior Dupilumab Patients

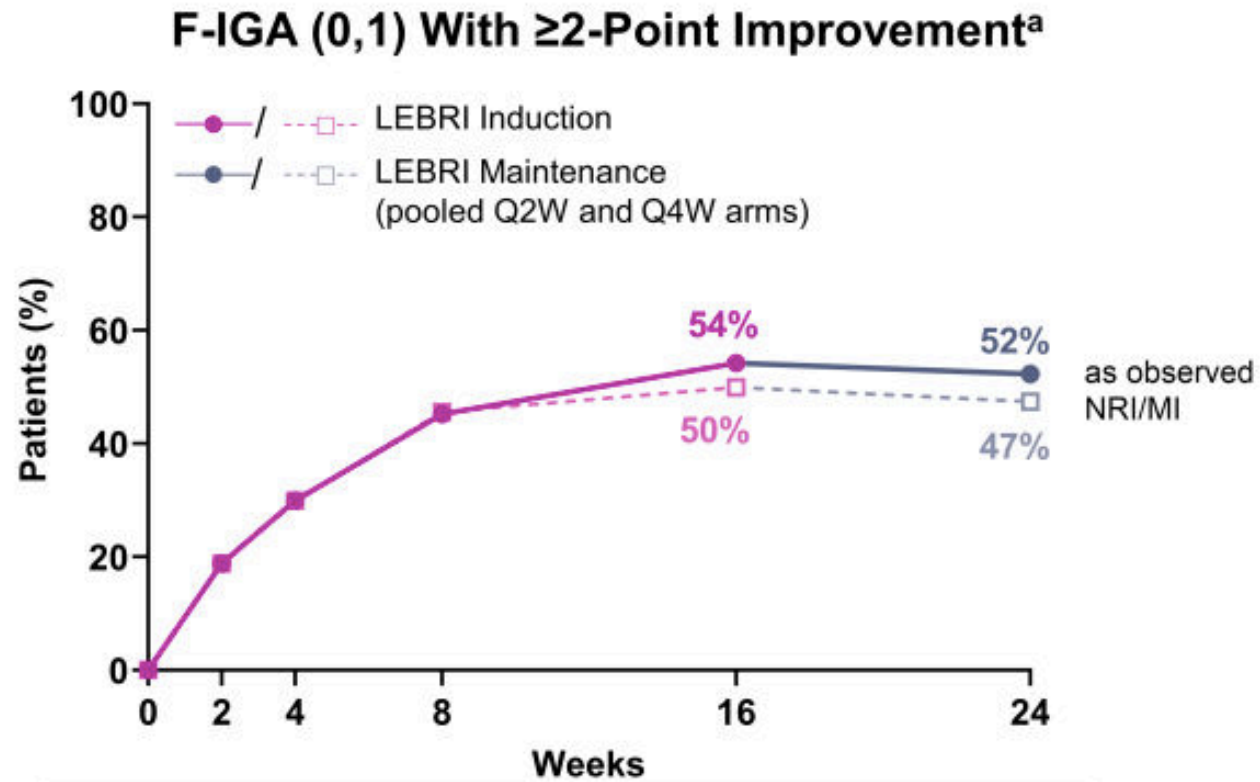
## Lebrikizumab Improves Atopic Dermatitis and Quality of Life in Patients With Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis Previously Treated With Dupilumab: Results From the ADapt Trial

Jonathan Silverberg<sup>1</sup>, Lindsay Ackerman<sup>2</sup>, Jerry Bagel<sup>3</sup>, Linda Stein Gold<sup>4</sup>, Andrew Blauvelt<sup>5</sup>, David Rosmarin<sup>6</sup>, Raj Chovatiya<sup>7</sup>, Matthew Zirwas<sup>8</sup>, Gil Yosipovitch<sup>9</sup>, Jill Waibel<sup>10</sup>, Jenny E. Murase<sup>11</sup>, Ben Lockshin<sup>12</sup>, Jamie Weisman<sup>13</sup>, Amber Reck Atwater<sup>14</sup>, Jennifer Proper<sup>14</sup>, Maria Silk<sup>14</sup>, Evangeline Pierce<sup>14</sup>, Maria Lucia Buziqui Piruzelli<sup>14</sup>, Sonia Montmayeur<sup>14</sup>, Christopher Schuster<sup>14</sup>, Jinglin Zhong<sup>15</sup>, Maria Jose Rueda<sup>14</sup>, Sreekumar Pillai<sup>14</sup>, Eric Simpson<sup>16</sup>

### ADapt Study Design



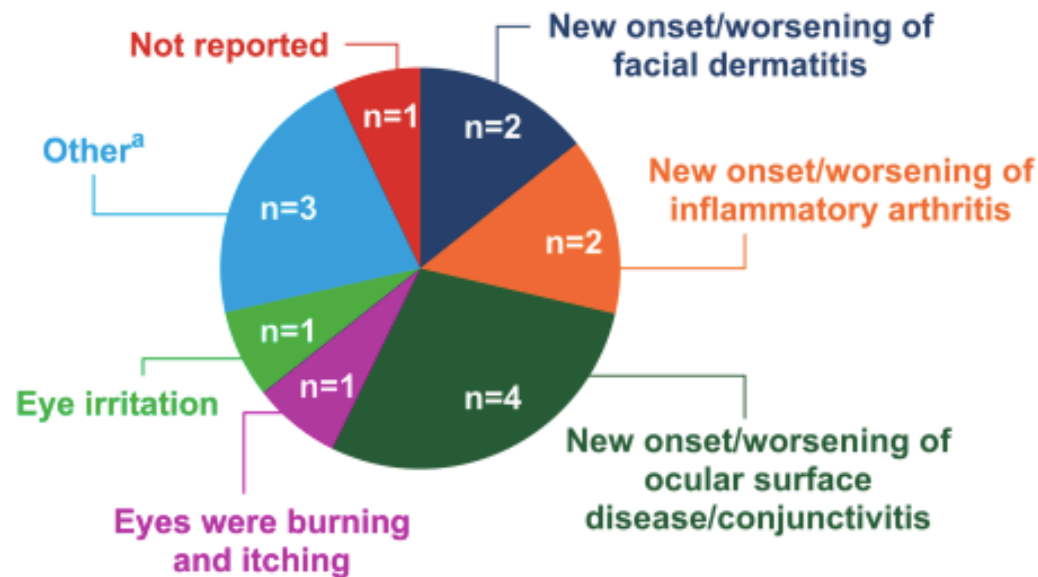
# Lebrikizumab



# Lebrikizumab and Conjunctivitis

## Primary Intolerance or AE Leading to Prior Dupilumab Discontinuation

N=14



## In the ADapt trial

- Of the 10 patients who reported eye-related events, facial dermatitis, or inflammatory arthritis as the reason for prior dupilumab discontinuation, none reported similar events with lebrikizumab
- Of the 14 patients with prior dupilumab discontinuation due to AEs
  - 2 discontinued treatment with lebrikizumab due to an AE:
    - Dermatitis atopic, n=1
    - Immune-mediated rash, n=1

<sup>a</sup>Other includes increased itching; weight gain and worsening of itch; hives, rash, pruritus, and swelling (n=1 each).




AE=adverse event.

# Lebrikizumab and Facial Dermatitis

**Photographs Showing Improvement in Facial Atopic Dermatitis With Lebrikizumab in a Patient Who Discontinued Dupilumab Due to Loss of Response**



# IL-13 binding affinity across biologics

	Lebrikizumab	Tralokinumab	
<b>Binding Affinity (<math>K_D</math>)</b>	6.3±0.9 pM	904±119 pM	 Lebrikizumab has a ~140-fold <b>stronger affinity</b> for IL-13 than tralokinumab <sup>a</sup>
<b>Dissociation Rate (<math>k_{off}</math> [± SD])</b>	(2.3±0.4)×10 <sup>-5</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	(3.8±0.9)×10 <sup>-3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	 Lebrikizumab <b>stays bound to IL-13 longer</b> than tralokinumab <sup>a</sup>
<b>Potency (IC<sub>50</sub> [± SD])</b>	13±1 pM	97±16 pM	 Lebrikizumab demonstrated a ~7-fold <b>reduction of IC<sub>50</sub></b> value for IL-13 vs. tralokinumab <sup>b</sup>

The higher the  $K_D$  value, the weaker the binding and the lower the affinity

The IC<sub>50</sub> value is correlated with drug potency, i.e., the amount of drug necessary to produce the effect—the lower the IC<sub>50</sub> value, the more potent the drug



**Binding Affinity**<sup>25-27</sup>

"How strong": a measure of strength of interaction between a drug and its target



**Dissociation Constant ( $K_D$ )**<sup>27-29</sup>

"How long" the drug–target interaction exerts an effect



**Potency (IC<sub>50</sub>)**<sup>28,29</sup>

Concentration or dose required for a given level of effect

Tralokinumab

# Tralokinumab

- Fully human IgG4 monoclonal antibody that binds to IL-13
- Approved for age 12 and older
- Dosing: 300 mg (two 150 mg injections) at week 0 followed by 150 mg (one 150 mg injection) every 2 weeks
  - **Currently no option for q4 dosing for peds, only available for adults <100kg after 16 weeks if IGA 0 or 1**

# Tralokinumab Efficacy



▶ JAMA Dermatol. 2023 Apr 19;159(6):596–605. doi: [10.1001/jamadermatol.2023.0627](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamadermatol.2023.0627)

## Efficacy and Safety of Tralokinumab in Adolescents With Moderate to Severe Atopic Dermatitis

The Phase 3 ECZTRA 6 Randomized Clinical Trial

[Amy S Paller](#)<sup>1,8\*</sup>, [Carsten Flohr](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Michael Cork](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Anthony Bewley](#)<sup>4</sup>, [Andrew Blauvelt](#)<sup>5</sup>, [H Chih-ho Hong](#)<sup>6</sup>, [Shinichi Imafuku](#)<sup>7</sup>, [Marie L A Schuttelaar](#)<sup>8</sup>, [Eric L Simpson](#)<sup>9</sup>, [Weily Soong](#)<sup>10</sup>, [Petra Arlert](#)<sup>11</sup>, [Katja Wendicke Lophaven](#)<sup>11</sup>, [Azra Kurbasic](#)<sup>11</sup>, [Lise Soldbro](#)<sup>11</sup>, [Natacha Strange Vest](#)<sup>11</sup>, [Andreas Wollenberg](#)<sup>12,13</sup>

- More patients receiving tralokinumab, 150 mg, and tralokinumab, 300 mg achieved an IGA score of 0 or 1 without rescue medication at week 16 (21 [21.4%] and 17 [17.5%], respectively) vs placebo (n = 94; 4 [4.3%])
- Proportions of patients with Adolescent Worst Pruritus Numeric Rating Scale reduction of 4 or more from baseline were greater with tralokinumab, 150 mg (23.2%), and tralokinumab, 300 (25.0%), vs placebo (3.3%)

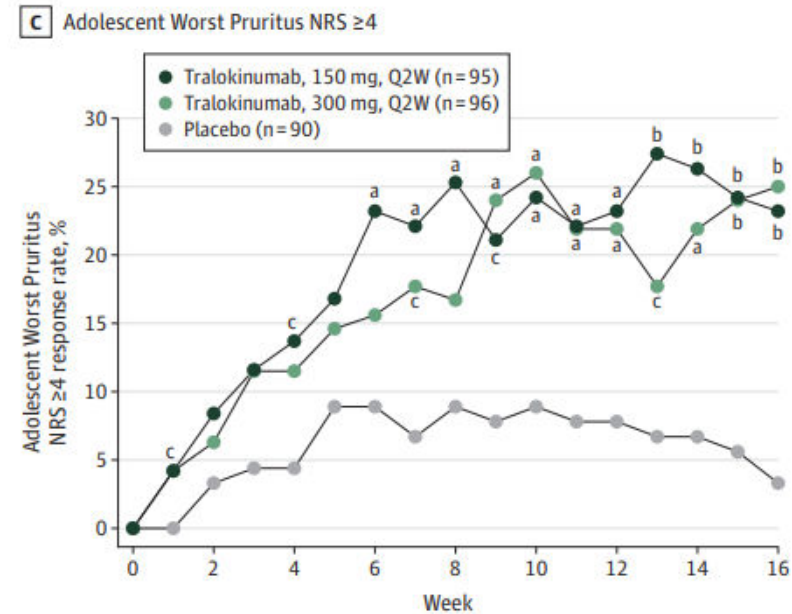
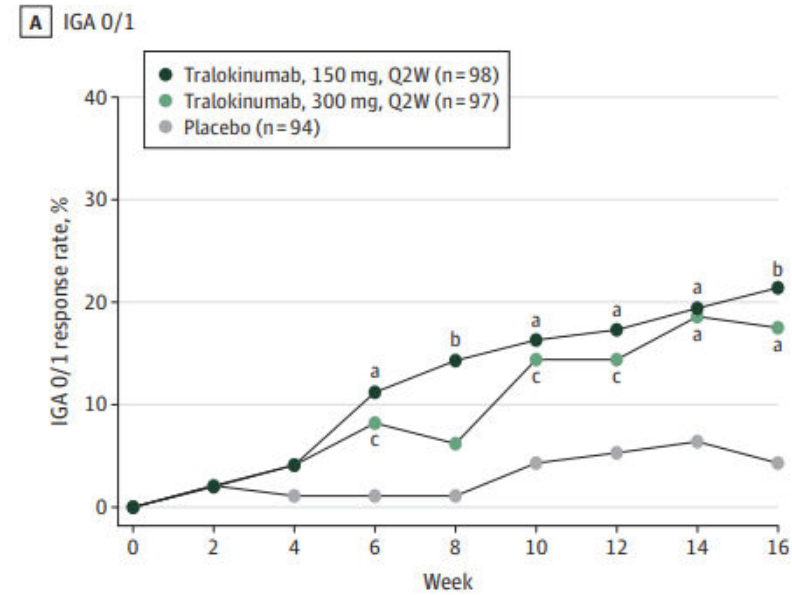
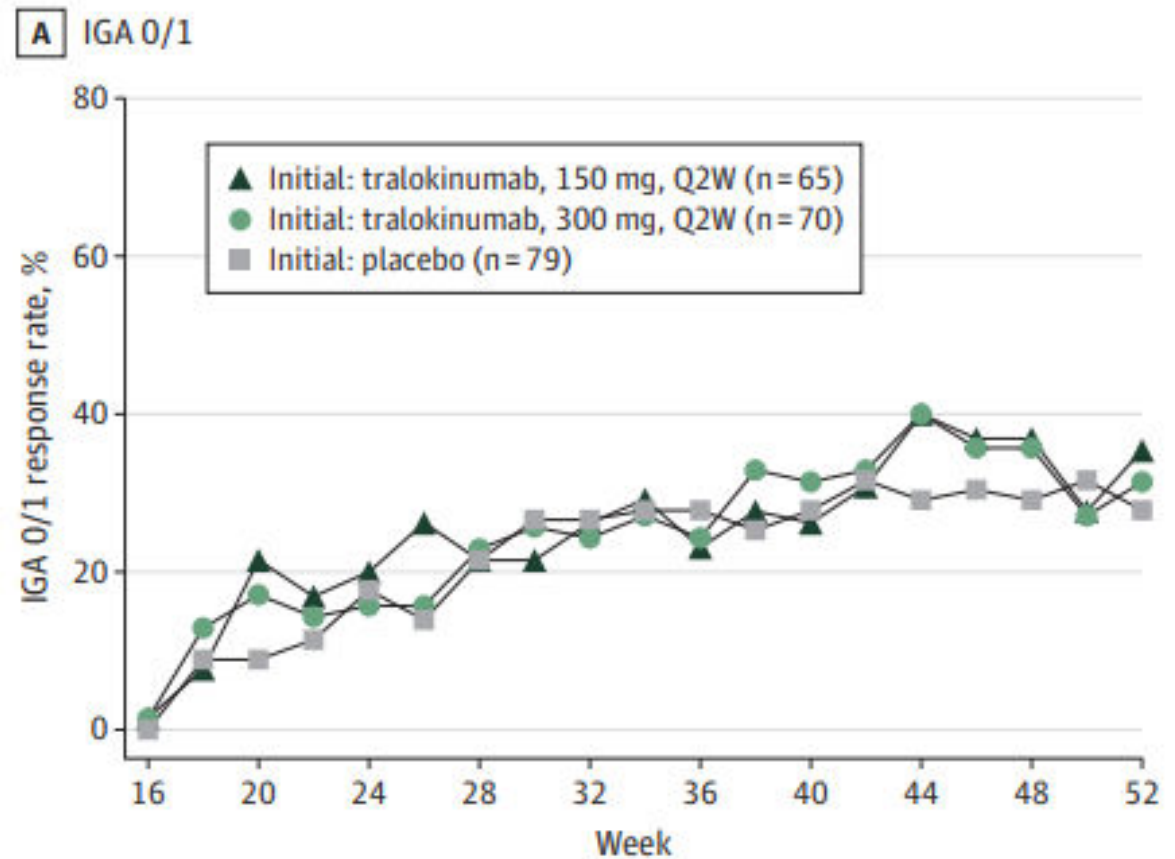


Figure 2. Tralokinumab Efficacy vs Placebo Across Primary and Key Secondary End Points up to Week 16 (Initial Treatment Period), Full Analysis Set.



# Tralokinumab 52-week open label extension

- Could stay on topical corticosteroids and/or TCI
- At week 52, tralokinumab efficacy was maintained without rescue in more than 50% of patients meeting primary end point(s) at week 16.
- In the open-label phase, IGA score of 0 or 1 was achieved 33.3% of patients at week 52



# Tralokinumab Safety

- Most frequent AEs were URI, dermatitis atopic (disease exacerbation), injection-site reaction, asthma, and headache
- Proportions of patients with conjunctivitis were low
- Frequencies of other AEs of special interest, including eczema herpeticum and skin infections requiring systemic treatment, were low across all treatment arms.

**Table 2. Safety Outcomes in the Initial Treatment Phase, Safety Analysis Set (N = 289).**

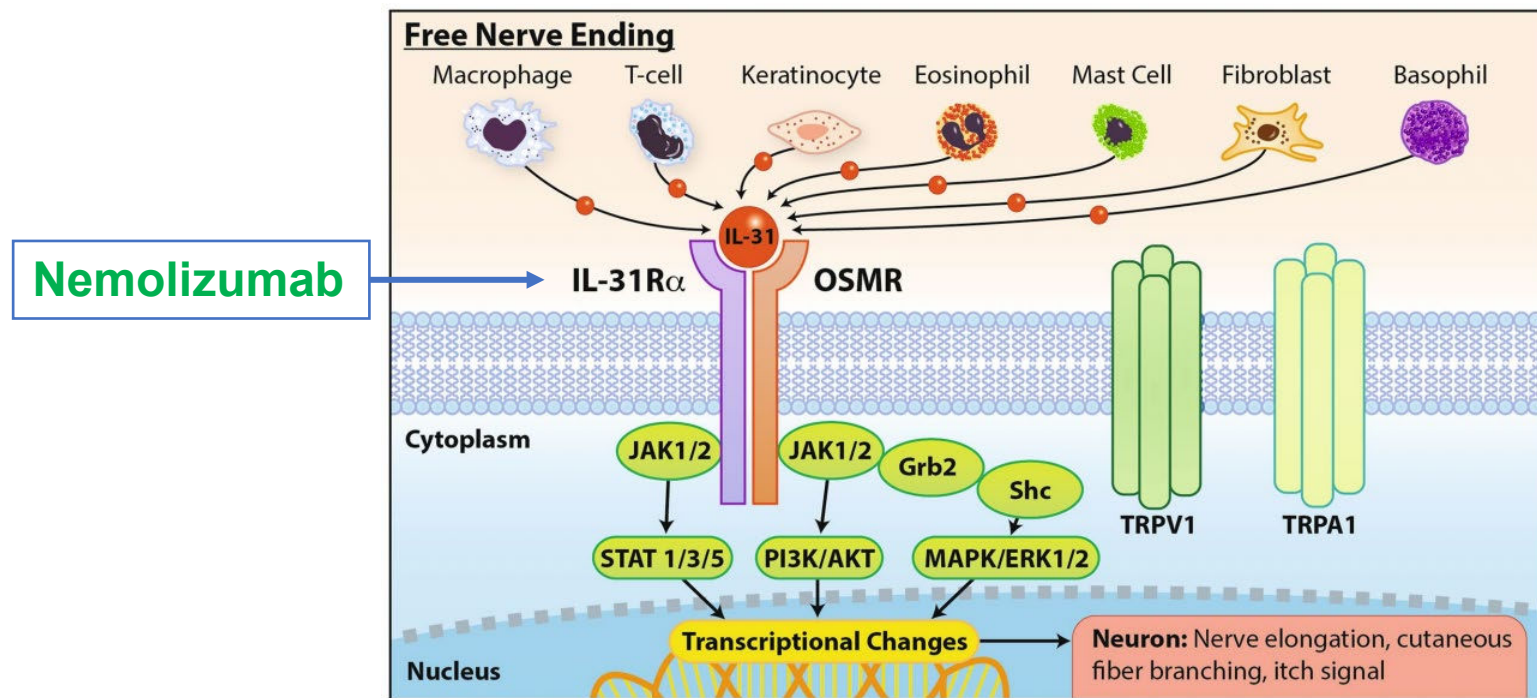
Outcome	No. (%)	Tralokinumab every 2 wk	
		Placebo (n = 94)	150 mg (n = 98) 300 mg (n = 97)
Adverse events (patients with $\geq 1$ )	58 (61.7)	66 (67.3)	63 (64.9)
Serious adverse events (patients with $\geq 1$ ) <sup>a</sup>	5 (5.3)	3 (3.1)	1 (1.0)
Severity of adverse events			
Mild	40 (42.6)	48 (49.0)	47 (48.5)
Moderate	31 (33.0)	33 (33.7)	32 (33.0)
Severe	7 (7.4)	5 (5.1)	3 (3.1)
Adverse event related to investigational medicinal product	20 (21.3)	26 (26.5)	25 (25.8)
Adverse event leading to withdrawal	0	1 (1.0) <sup>b</sup>	0
Frequent adverse events ( $\geq 5\%$ in any group)			
Viral upper respiratory tract infection	8 (8.5)	19 (19.4)	12 (12.4)
Upper respiratory tract infection	4 (4.3)	8 (8.2)	11 (11.3)
Dermatitis atopic	12 (12.8)	13 (13.3)	7 (7.2)
Injection-site reaction	0	6 (6.1)	2 (2.1)
Asthma	5 (5.3)	0	3 (3.1)
Headache	3 (3.2)	5 (5.1)	6 (6.2)
Adverse events of special interest			
Eye disorders	2 (2.1)	4 (4.1)	4 (4.1)
Conjunctivitis	2 (2.1)	4 (4.1)	3 (3.1)
Conjunctivitis (preferred term)	0	2 (2.0)	0
Conjunctivitis bacterial (preferred term)	0	0	1 (1.0)
Conjunctivitis allergic (preferred term)	2 (2.1)	2 (2.0)	2 (2.1)
Conjunctivitis viral (preferred term)	0	0	0
Keratitis	0	0	1 (1.0)

Nemolizumab

# Nemolizumab

- Humanized IgG2 monoclonal antibody that inhibits IL-31 signaling by binding to IL-31 receptor antagonist
- Indicated for patients 12 and older for moderate to severe atopic dermatitis
- Dosing: 60mg (2 30mg injections) followed by 30mg every 4 weeks
  - **After 16 weeks if maintenance achieved, can lower dose to 30mg every 8 weeks**

# IL-31 MOA

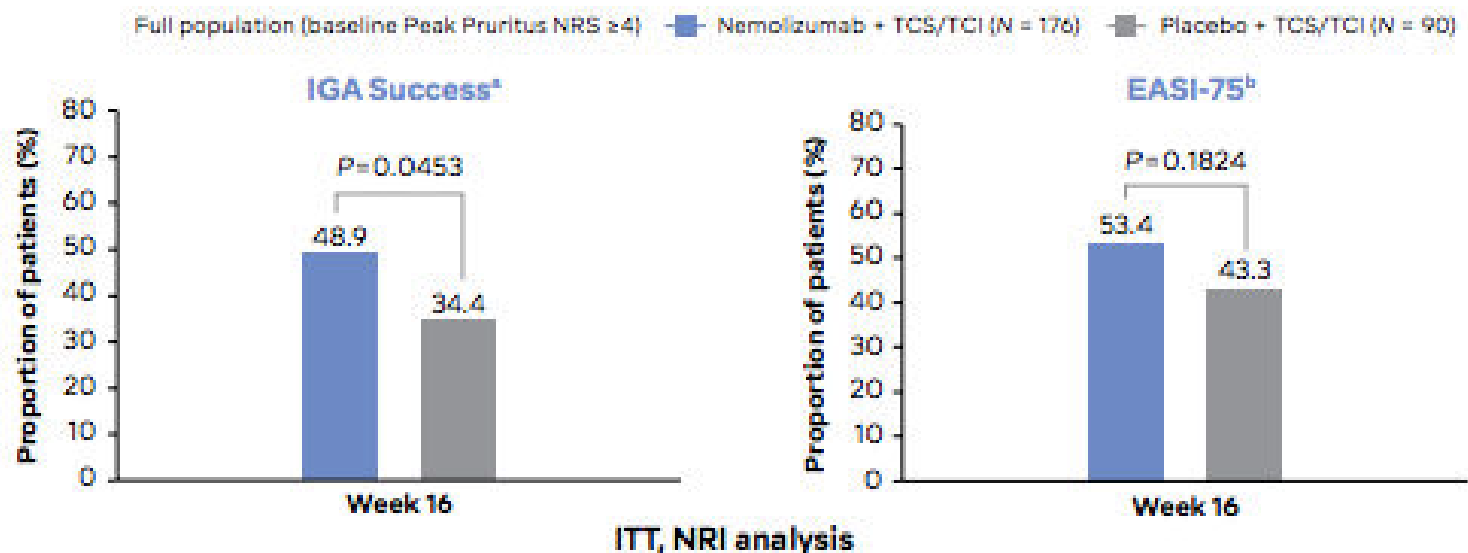


- Primarily produced by Th2 cells
- Binds to IL31R $\alpha$  and OSMR $\beta$  on DRG
- One of the “master itch cytokines”

- Signals through JAK/STAT and MAPK/ERK
- Induces neurogenic inflammation and barrier dysfunction

# Nemolizumab Efficacy in Adolescent Subset

**Figure 2. IGA Success and EASI-75 At Week 16**



EASI-75, 75% improvement in the Eczema Area and Severity Index; IGA, Investigator's Global Assessment; ITT, intent-to-treat; N, total number of patients in treatment group; NRI, non-responder imputation; NRS, Numerical Rating Scale; TCI, topical calcineurin inhibitors; TCS, topical corticosteroids

Percentages (%) are based on the number of patients in each treatment group (N).

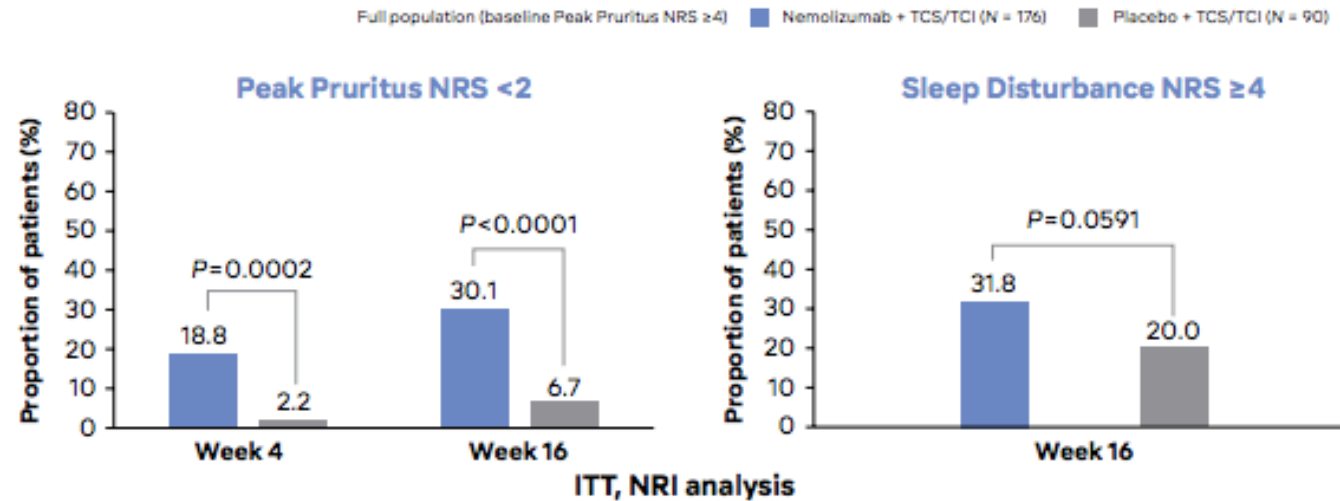
For non-responder imputation, patients with data collected after use of rescue therapy or with missing data at a visit were considered non-responders. Strata adjusted P-values were from Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test adjusting for the stratification variable study.

<sup>a</sup>IGA success was defined as IGA (0, 1) and  $\geq 2$  points improvement.

<sup>b</sup>EASI-75 was defined as  $\geq 75\%$  improvement in EASI from initial baseline.

# Nemolizumab and Pruritus

**Figure 4. Weekly Average Improvement in Peak Pruritus NRS Score <2 and Weekly Average Improvement in Sleep Disturbance NRS Score ≥4 at Week 4 and Week 16**



ITT, intent-to-treat; N, total number of patients in treatment group; NRI, non-responder imputation; NRS, Numerical Rating Scale; TCI, topical calcineurin inhibitors; TCS, topical corticosteroids

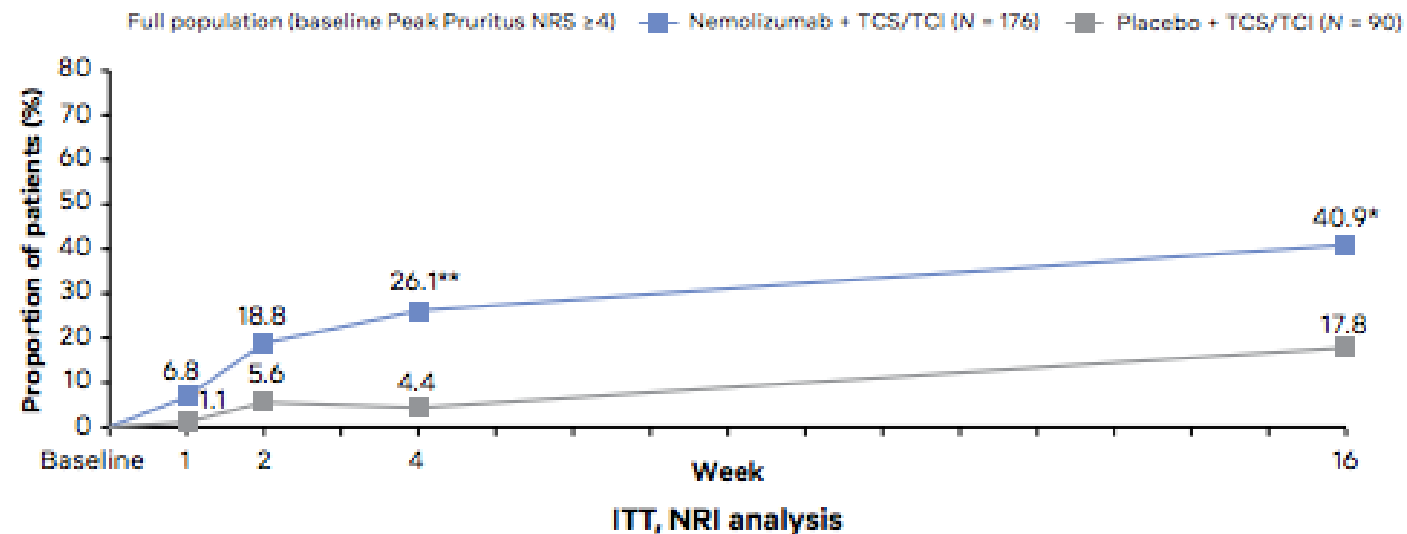
Weekly SD NRS and PP NRS score is calculated using 7 consecutive days diary data and set to missing if less than 4 days data available. Baseline value is the weekly score prior to first injection of study treatment of initial period.

For non-responder imputation, patients with data collected after use of rescue therapy or with missing data at a visit were considered non-responders. Strata adjusted P-values were from Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test adjusting for the stratification variable study.

Percentages (%) are based on the number of patients in each treatment group (N).

# Nemolizumab and Pruritus at Week 16

**Figure 3.  $\geq 4$ -Point Improvement from Baseline in Peak Pruritus NRS Score**





# Nemolizumab Safety

**Table 2. Overall Summary of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events**

	Nemolizumab + TCS/TCI N=176	Placebo + TCS/TCI N=89
<b>AEs or SAEs, n (%)</b>		
Any TEAE	64 (36.4)	35 (39.3)
Any serious TEAE	3 (1.7)	1 (1.1)
Any serious TEAE related to study drug	1 (0.6)	0
<b>Any TEAE leading to study discontinuation, n (%)</b>	1 (0.6)	1 (1.1)
<b>Any TEAE leading to death, n (%)</b>	0	0
<b>Any severe TEAE, n (%)</b>	4 (2.3)	1 (1.1)
<b>AESI, n (%)</b>	16 (9.1)	3 (3.4)
Elevated ALT or AST (>3xULN) in combination with elevated bilirubin (>2xULN)	0	0
Peripheral edema: limbs, bilateral; facial edema	2 (1.1)	0
Infections	6 (3.4)	2 (2.2)
Newly diagnosed asthma or worsening of asthma	9 (5.1)	2 (2.2)
Injection-related reactions	0	0
<b>TEAEs ≥5% (MedDRA Preferred Term), n (%)</b>		
Dermatitis atopic	10 (5.7)	8 (9.0)

**Table 3. Adverse Events of Interest in the Field of Atopic Dermatitis**

	Nemolizumab + TCS/TCI N=176	Placebo + TCS/TCI N=89
Conjunctivitis allergic, n (%)	0	1 (1.1)
Nasopharyngitis, n (%)	9 (5.1)	2 (2.2)
COVID-19, n (%)	2 (1.1)	2 (2.2)
Upper respiratory tract infection, n (%)	5 (2.8)	3 (3.4)
Sinusitis, n (%)	2 (1.1)	1 (1.1)
Urinary tract infection, n (%)	0	0
Conjunctivitis, n (%)	1 (0.6)	0
Herpes infections, n (%)	2 (1.1)	0
Herpes zoster	1 (0.6)	0
Other Herpes infections*	1 (0.6)	3 (3.3)
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (including cysts and polyps), n (%)	0	0

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Thank you!