

July 29, 2015

Epratuzumab Results Can Help Build Better Trials for Lupus

Learnings from two epratuzumab studies will inform progress in this complex autoimmune disease

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI) is disappointed but undaunted by the results [announced yesterday](#) by UCB of two clinical trials evaluating the investigational drug epratuzumab for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

In the Phase 3 trials (EMBODY™ 1 and EMBODY™ 2), epratuzumab did not significantly reduce symptoms of lupus compared with placebo, when added to standard of care therapy. Epratuzumab is a monoclonal antibody that targets CD22, a protein that modulates B-cells which are key components of the immune system.

“Even though the lupus community has unfortunately grown accustomed to this type of news, that doesn't soften the blow,” commented Richard Furie, MD, EMBODY investigator and Chief of the Division of Rheumatology and Director, The SLE Treatment Center, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. “These results serve as a reminder that developing therapies in lupus is highly challenging. UCB will most assuredly analyze the data with the intent of refining the strategies with which clinical trials are performed in lupus. Patients and sponsors should not be put off by the results of these trials; rather, the lupus community should come together to overcome the hurdles involved in lupus drug development.”

“The LRI's current research initiatives specifically aim to surmount many critical issues in lupus trial design,” said Margaret G. Dowd, LRI President and CEO. “Vitaly important ongoing efforts at this juncture are the development of new data-driven outcome measures that can better demonstrate effectiveness and the definition of patient subsets to personalize treatment approaches.”

“We thank the hundreds of patients who generously contributed their time and energy to take part in UCB's studies,” Ms. Dowd continued. “While the EMBODY results are not what everyone had hoped for, we recognize that important information gleaned from further analysis will contribute valuable insights and ultimately help the millions of people with lupus worldwide.”

DONATE
for a life without lupus

About the Lupus Research Institute

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI), the world's leading private supporter of novel research in lupus, pioneers discovery and champions scientific creativity as it has successfully demonstrated the power of innovation to propel scientific solutions in this complex autoimmune disease.