

# **Efficacy and Safety of Ofatumumab Versus Teriflunomide in Patients with Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis: Phase 3 ASCLEPIOS I and II Trials**



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**Platform session-DMT03**

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# Disclosures

**Anne H. Cross** has consulted for AbbVie, Bayer, Biogen, EMD Serono, Genentech/Roche, Genzyme/Sanofi, Mallinckrodt, Novartis and Teva. **Ludwig Kappos'** institution (University Hospital Basel) has received the following exclusively for research support: steering committee, advisory board and consultancy fees (Actelion, Adxex, Bayer HealthCare, Biogen Idec, Biotica, Genzyme, Lilly, Merck, Mitsubishi, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, Receptos, Sanofi, Santhera, Siemens, Teva, UCB and Xenoport); speaker fees (Bayer HealthCare, Biogen Idec, Merck, Novartis, Sanofi and Teva); support for educational activities (Bayer HealthCare, Biogen, CSL Behring, Genzyme, Merck, Novartis, Sanofi and Teva); license fees for Neurostatus products; and grants (Bayer HealthCare, Biogen Idec, European Union, Innoswiss, Merck, Novartis, Roche Research Foundation, Swiss MS Society and Swiss National Research Foundation).

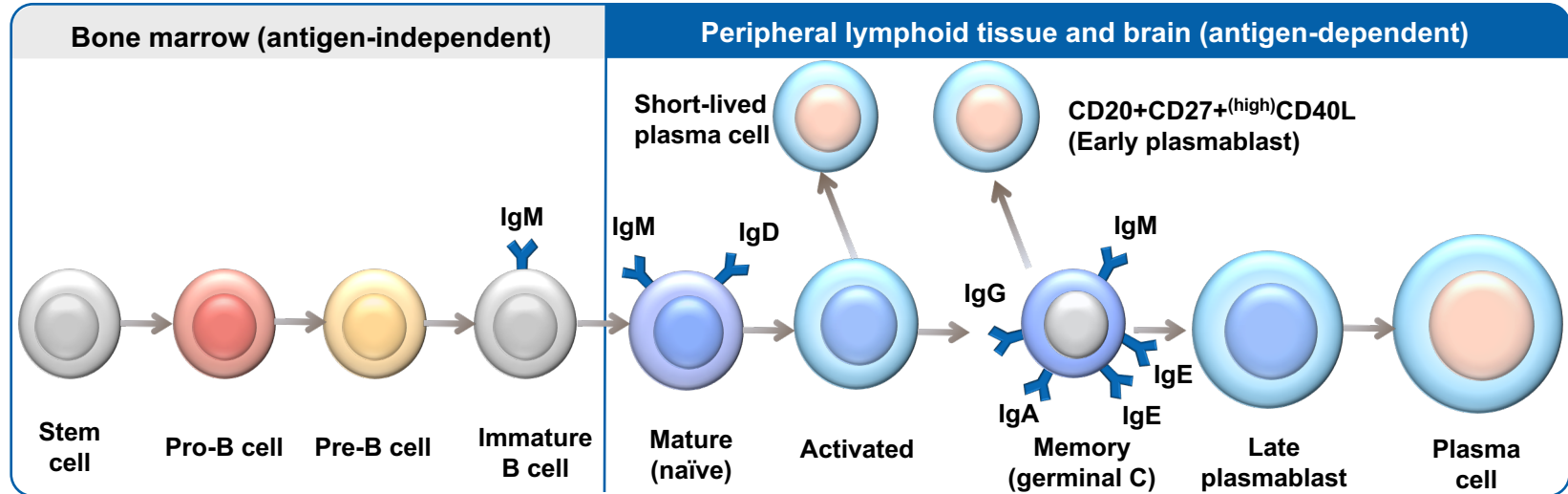
**Amit Bar-Or** has participated as a speaker in meetings sponsored by and received consulting fees and/or grant support from: Janssen/Actelion; Atara Biotherapeutics, Biogen Idec, Celgene/Receptos, Roche/Genentech, Medimmune, Merck/EMD Serono, Novartis, Sanofi-Genzyme. **Jeffrey A. Cohen** has received personal compensation for consulting for Adamas, Convelo, MedDay, Mylan, and Population Council; and serving as an Editor of Multiple Sclerosis Journal.

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**Cecile Kerloeguen, Roman Willi, Bingbing Li, Ratnakar Pingili, Dieter A. Häring, Krishnan Ramanathan** and **Martin Merschhemke** are employees of Novartis. **Algirdas Kakarieka, Davorca Tomic** and **Alexandra Goodyear** were employees of Novartis at the time of the presentation preparation. Editorial support was provided by **Swetha Sanugomula** and **Anuja Shah** (employees of Novartis Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, India). The final responsibility for the content lies with the authors.

# Anti-CD20 Therapy May Preserve Capacity of B-cell Reconstitution and Pre-existing Humoral Immunity

## CD20 expression in B-cell lineage



## B-cell differentiation

Ofatumumab binds to CD20, resulting in B-cell depletion and reduced B- and T-cell interactions, which may reduce inflammation in the CNS

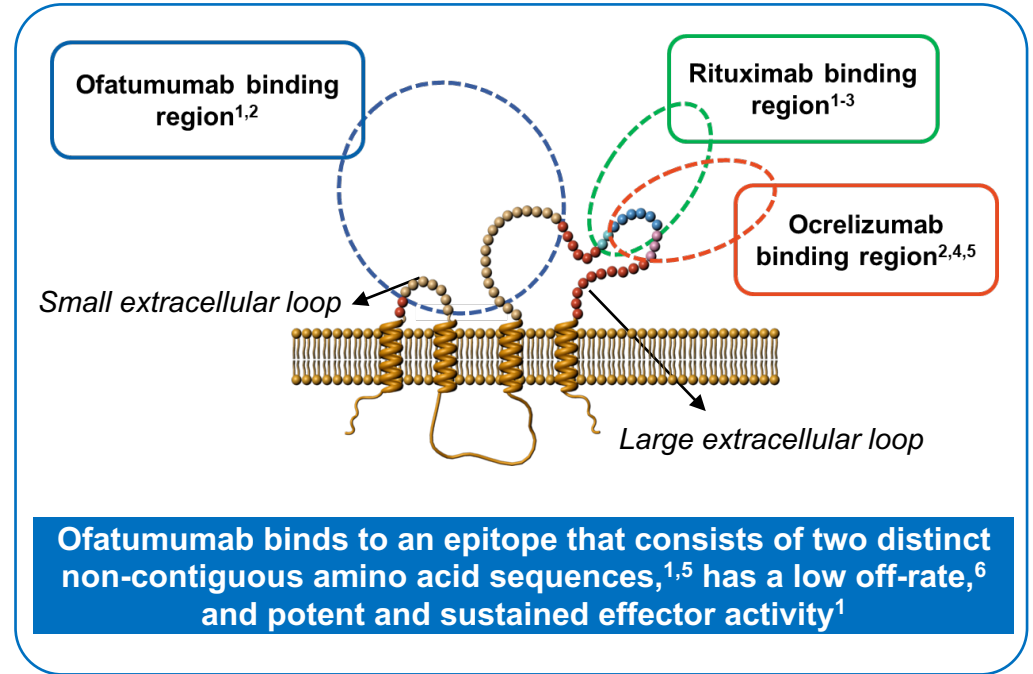
CNS, central nervous system; Ig, immunoglobulin

Figure adapted from Dalakas M. *Nat Clin Pract Neurol.* 2008;4:557–567. Hauser S, et al. *ECTRIMS* 2015. P.90.

# Ofatumumab

## Anti-CD20 therapy in MS

- Ofatumumab is the first fully human anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody, administered with a monthly 20 mg s.c. dosing regimen<sup>1</sup>
- Phase 2b MIRROR study:  $\geq 90\%$  reduction in Gd+ T1 lesions versus placebo at Week 12 for all cumulative ofatumumab doses of  $\geq 30$  mg over 12 weeks<sup>7</sup>



Gd+, gadolinium-enhancing; MS, multiple sclerosis; s.c., subcutaneous

<sup>1</sup>Smith P, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS* 2016;P1143. <sup>2</sup>Teeling JL, et al. *J Immunol*. 2006;177:362–371. <sup>3</sup>Ruuls SR, et al. *Biotechnol J*. 2008;3:1157–1171.

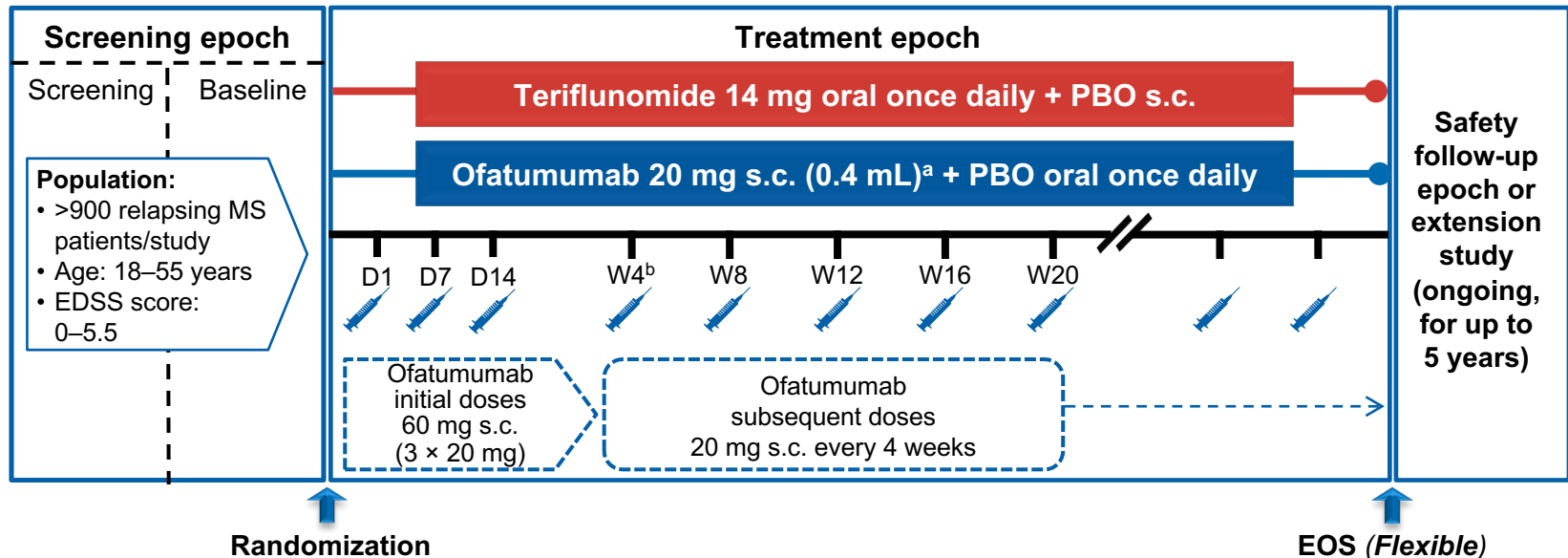
<sup>4</sup>Genovese MC, et al. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2008;58:2652–2661. <sup>5</sup>Klein C, et al. *MAbs*. 2013;5:22–33. <sup>6</sup>Pacheco-Fernandez T, et al. *AAN* 2018;S52.003.

<sup>7</sup>Bar-Or A, et al. *Neurology*. 2018;90:e1805–e1814.

# ASCLEPIOS I and II: Study Design

## Identical study designs, conducted in parallel

Double-blind, double-dummy, active comparator-controlled, parallel-group, multi-center, adaptive and flexible duration design trials (*maximum duration of up to 30 months*)<sup>1,2</sup>



<sup>a</sup>20 mg of ofatumumab was administered in an injection volume of 0.4 mL; <sup>b</sup>Week 4 (Month 1) and every 4 weeks thereafter. D, day; EDSS, Expanded Disability Status Scale; EOS, end of study; MS, multiple sclerosis; PBO, placebo; s.c., subcutaneous; W, week

1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at ECTRIMS.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at AAN 2020.

# ASCLEPIOS I and II: Study Objective and Key Endpoints

**Objective:** To evaluate the efficacy and safety of ofatumumab compared with teriflunomide in patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis

## Study endpoints<sup>1,2</sup>

<b>Primary endpoint</b> <i>(within each study)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Annualized relapse rate <i>(number of confirmed multiple sclerosis relapses in a year)</i></li></ul>	
<b>Key secondary endpoints</b>	<b>Pre-specified pooled analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3-month confirmed disability worsening</li><li>6-month confirmed disability worsening</li><li>6-month confirmed disability improvement</li></ul>	<b>By individual study</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gadolinium-enhancing T1 lesions</li><li>New or enlarging T2 lesions</li><li>Serum neurofilament light chain levels</li><li>Brain volume loss</li></ul>

# ASCLEPIOS I and II: Study Population

## Key inclusion criteria<sup>1,2</sup>

- Male or female patients aged 18 to 55 years
- Diagnosis of MS according to the 2010 Revised McDonald criteria<sup>3</sup>
- Relapsing form of MS: RRMS or SPMS with disease activity as defined by Lublin et al. 2014<sup>4</sup>
- EDSS score of 0 to 5.5
- One of the following documented:
  - $\geq 2$  relapses in the 2 years before screening
  - $\geq 1$  relapse in the year before screening
  - A positive T1 Gd+ scan during the year before randomization
- Neurologically stable within 1 month prior to randomization

## Key exclusion criteria<sup>1,2</sup>

- Patients with PPMS or SPMS without disease activity
- Patients meeting criteria for neuromyelitis optica
- Disease duration of  $>10$  years with an EDSS score of  $\leq 2.0$
- Patients with an active chronic disease of the immune system other than MS or immunodeficiency syndrome
- Patients with neurological findings consistent or confirmed with PML
- Patients at risk of developing or history of syphilis, tuberculosis or hepatitis
- Patients who received any live/live-attenuated vaccines in the 2 months prior to randomization

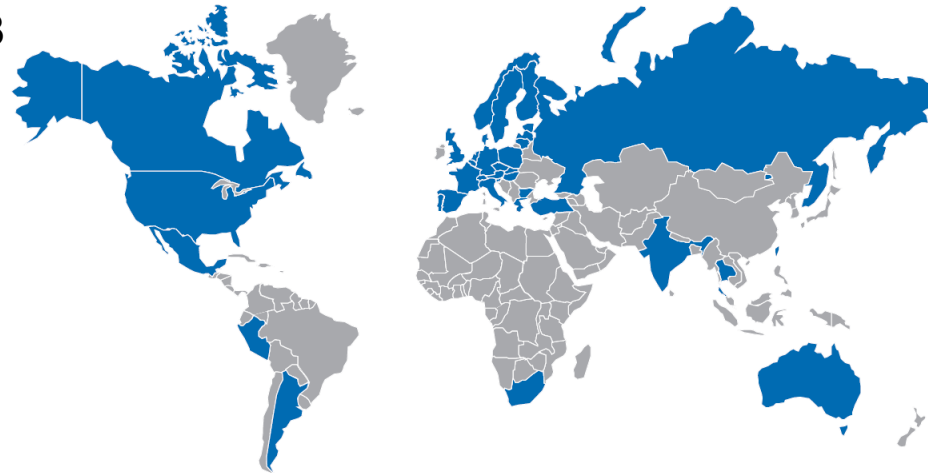
EDSS, Expanded Disability Status Scale; Gd+, gadolinium-enhancing; MS, multiple sclerosis; PML, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy; PPMS, primary progressive MS; RRMS, relapsing-remitting MS; SPMS, secondary progressive MS

1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS*.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN* 2020; 3. Kappos L et al, Presented at *ECTRIMS* 2018. P965. 4. Lublin FD, et al. *Neurology*. 2014;83:278–286.

# ASCLEPIOS I and II: Independent Global Studies

- First patient first treatment: October 5, 2016
- Last patient first treatment: March 1, 2018

■ Participating countries

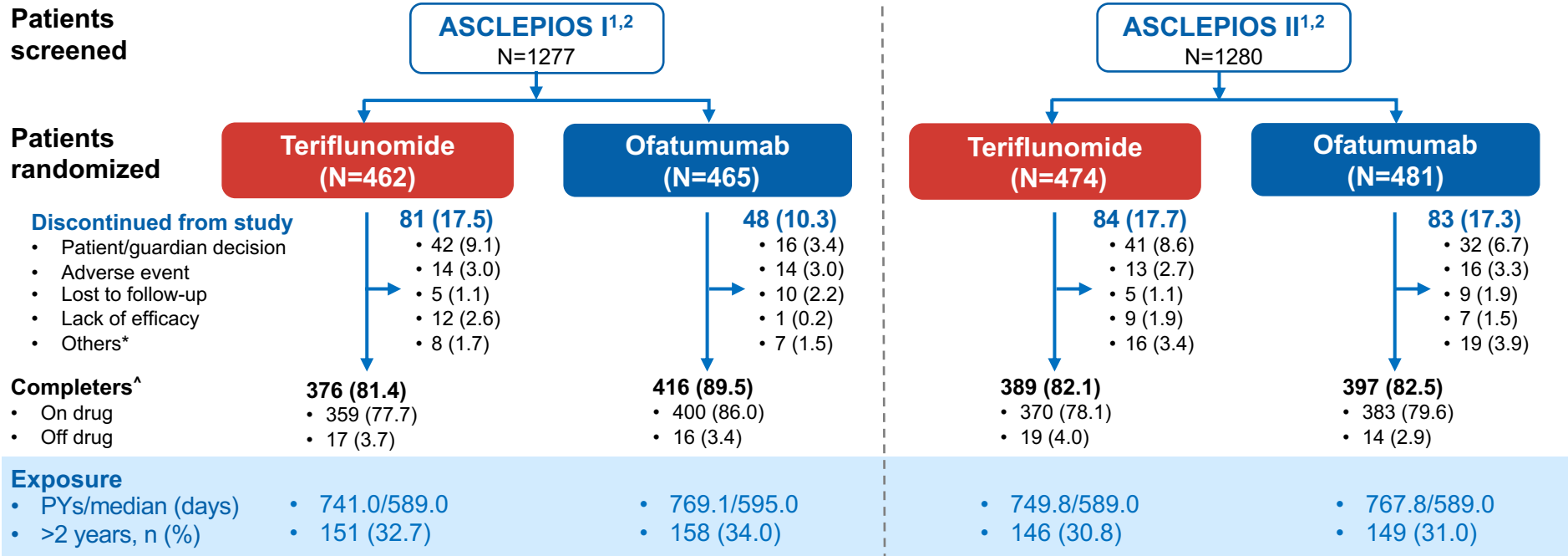


Geographic region <sup>1,2</sup> , n (%)	ASCLEPIOS I	ASCLEPIOS II
Eastern Europe	325 (35.1)	233 (24.4)
Western Europe	170 (18.3)	246 (25.8)
US/Canada	208 (22.4)	213 (22.3)
Others	224 (24.2)	263 (27.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>955</b>

**Countries with the highest enrollment included the United States, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Spain and India**



# ASCLEPIOS I and II: Patient Disposition and Exposure Data



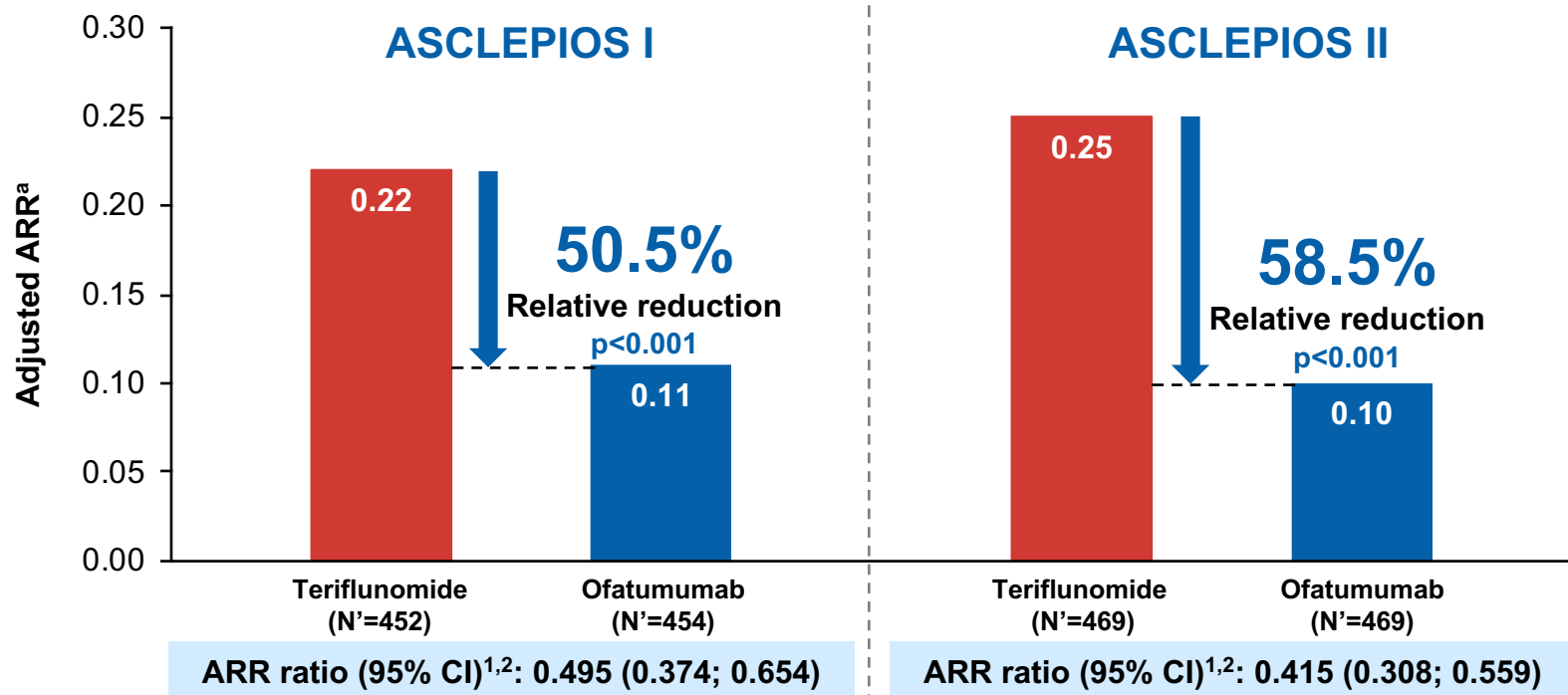
Data are represented as n (%). \*Others include physician decision, protocol deviation, new therapy for study indication, non-compliance with study treatment, pregnancy and technical problems. On study drug: Patients who took the study drug until the treatment epoch completion. Off study drug: Patients who completed the treatment epoch but discontinued the study drug prematurely. <sup>^</sup>Six patients in ASCLEPIOS I and two in ASCLEPIOS II were considered ongoing at the time of the data cut-off date. PYs, patient-years; 1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS.2019*. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN 2020*.

# Demographics and Baseline Characteristics

## ASCLEPIOS I and II populations are consistent and poolable

Characteristics <sup>1,2</sup>	ASCLEPIOS I (N=927)		ASCLEPIOS II (N=955)	
	Teriflunomide (N=462)	Ofatumumab (N=465)	Teriflunomide (N=474)	Ofatumumab (N=481)
<i>Mean±standard deviation or n (%)</i>				
<b>Age (years)</b>	37.8±9.0	38.9±8.8	38.2±9.5	38.0±9.3
<b>Sex, female</b>	317 (68.6)	318 (68.4)	319 (67.3)	319 (66.3)
<b>Weight (kg)</b>	75.47±20.0	74.84±19.9	73.97±17.9	73.62±19.0
<b>Duration of MS since first symptoms (years)</b>	8.18±7.2	8.36±6.8	8.19±7.4	8.2±7.4
<b>Previously treated with DMTs</b>	280 (60.6)	274 (58.9)	293 (61.8)	286 (59.5)
<b>Number of relapses in the last 12 months</b>	1.3±0.69	1.2±0.63	1.3±0.73	1.3±0.74
<b>EDSS score</b>	2.94±1.4	2.97±1.4	2.86±1.4	2.90±1.3
<b>T2 lesion volume (cm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	13.1±14.6	13.2±13.3	12.0±13.0	14.3±14.2
<b>Patients free of Gd+ T1 lesions</b>	293 (63.4)	291 (62.6)	291 (61.4)	270 (56.1)
<b>Number of Gd+ T1 lesions</b>	1.2±2.6	1.7±4.9	1.5±4.1	1.6±4.1

# Ofatumumab Demonstrated Significant Reduction in ARR



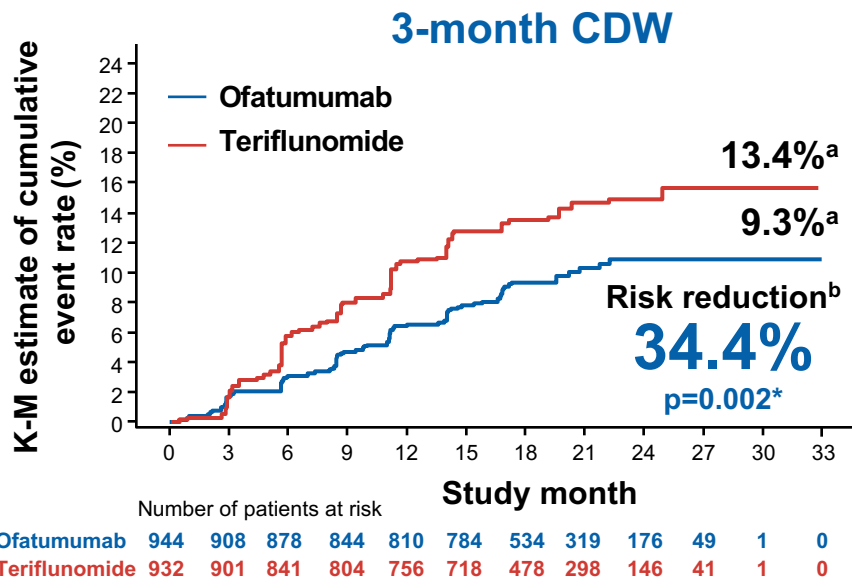
Full analysis set. Primary endpoint. <sup>a</sup>Negative binomial regression model.

ARR, annualized relapse rate; CI, confidence interval; N, total number of patients included in the analysis

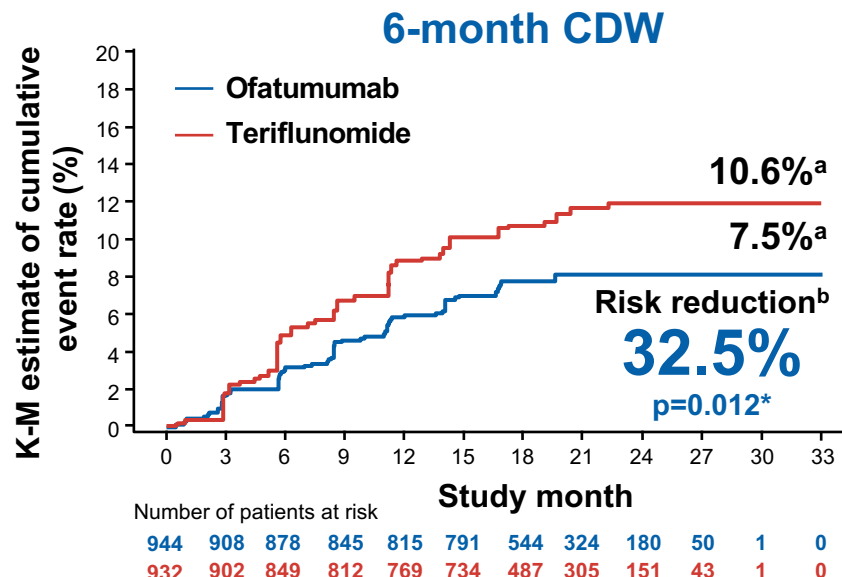
1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS*.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN* 2020. .

# Ofatumumab Showed Significant Reductions in 3- and 6-month CDW

## Pre-specified pooled analysis



**Hazard ratio (95% CI)<sup>1,2</sup>: 0.656 (0.499; 0.862)**



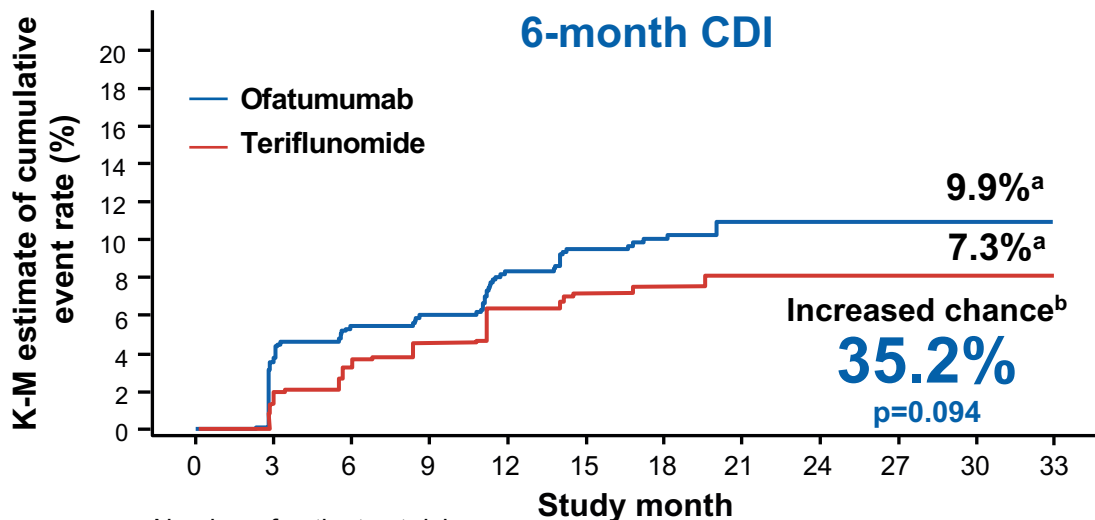
**Hazard ratio (95% CI)<sup>1,2</sup>: 0.675 (0.498; 0.916)**

Full analysis set. Secondary endpoints. \*Indicates statistical significance (two-sided) at the 0.04875 level. <sup>a</sup>Proportion of patients with 3- or 6-month CDW, <sup>b</sup>Cox regression model. CDW, confirmed disability worsening; CI, confidence interval; K-M, Kaplan-Meier

1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS.2019. S17.OP336*; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN 2020*.

# Ofatumumab Demonstrated a Favorable Trend to Achieve 6-month CDI

## Pre-specified pooled analysis



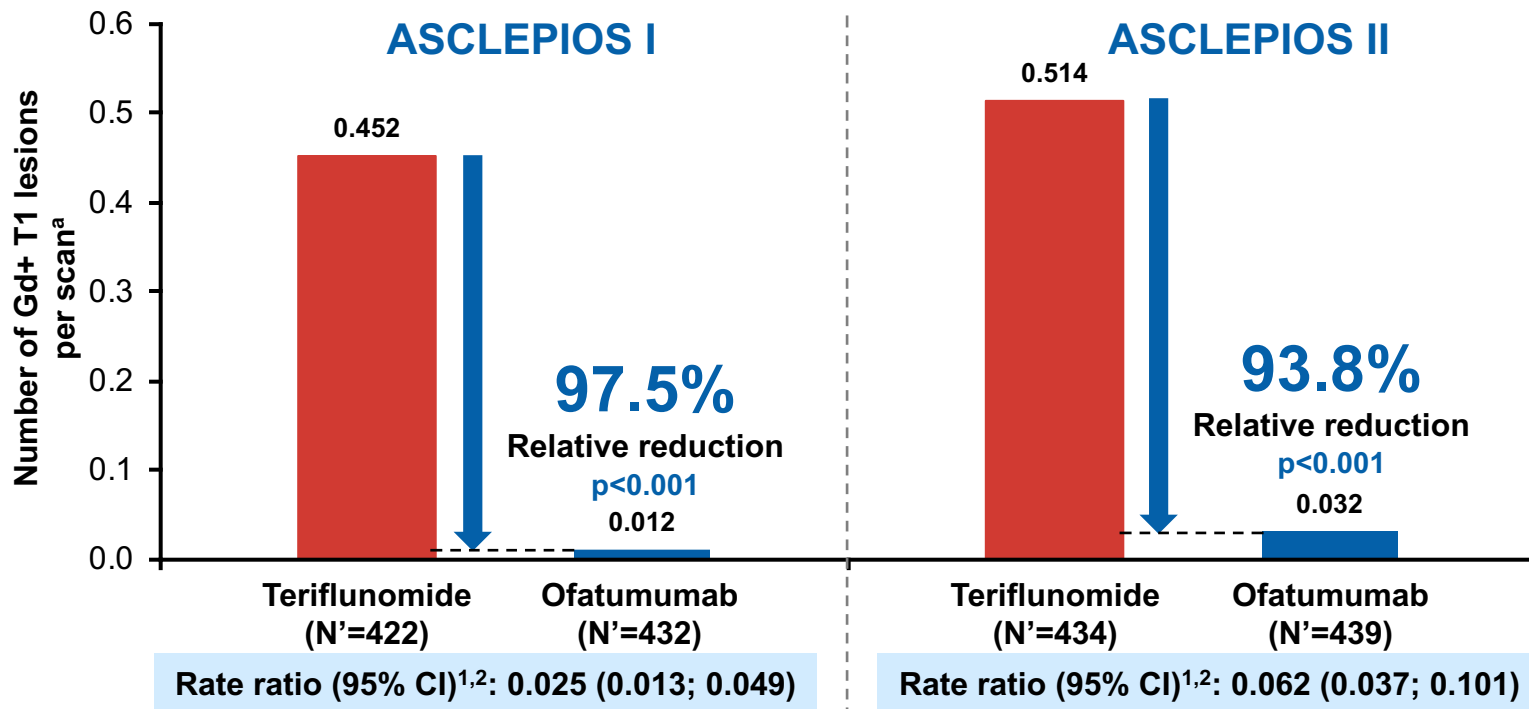
	Number of patients at risk											
	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33
<b>Ofatumumab</b>	749	705	676	657	625	598	396	239	135	33	1	0
<b>Teriflunomide</b>	724	704	665	642	606	575	374	244	124	29	2	0

**Hazard ratio (95% CI)<sup>1,2</sup>: 1.352 (0.950; 1.924)**

Full analysis set. Secondary endpoint.. <sup>a</sup>Proportion of patients with 6-month CDI, <sup>b</sup>Cox regression model.  
CDI, confirmed disability improvement; K-M, Kaplan–Meier

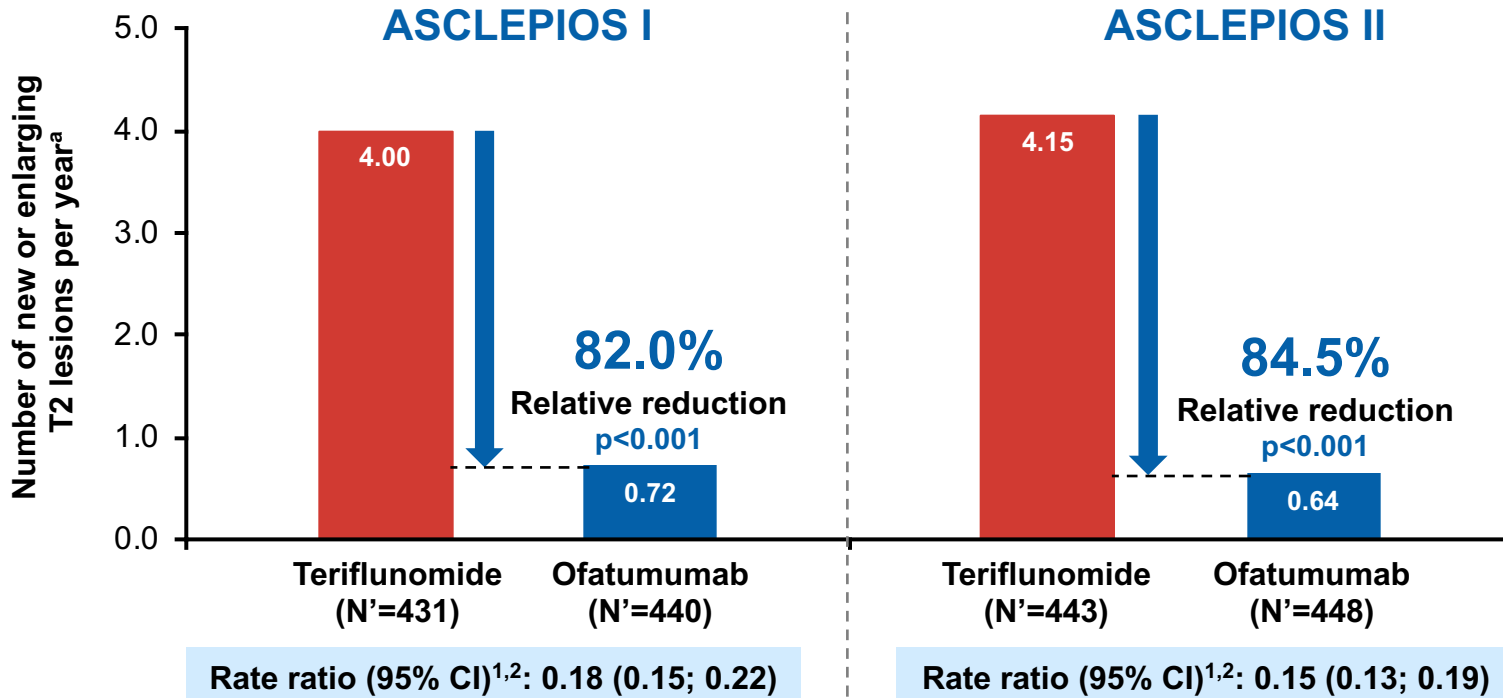
1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS.2019. S17.OP336*; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN 2020*.

# Ofatumumab Showed Significant Reductions in the Number of Gd+ T1 Lesions per scan



Full analysis set. Secondary endpoint. End of study. <sup>a</sup>Negative binomial regression model of the cumulative number of Gd+ lesions on the M12 and M24 scan, with an offset for the number of available scans. CI, confidence interval; Gd+, gadolinium-enhancing; N, total number of patients included in the analysis  
 1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS.2019. S17.OP336*; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN 2020*.

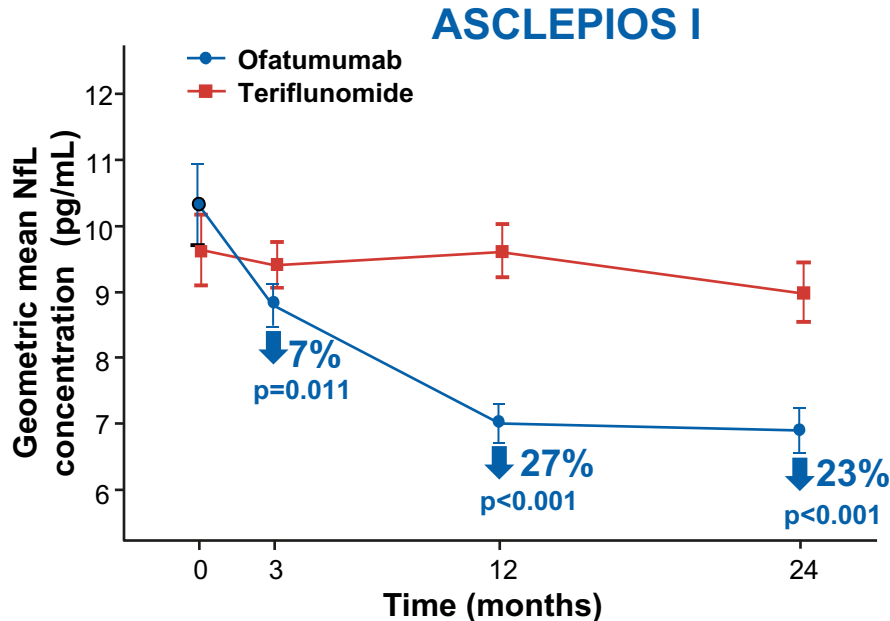
# Ofatumumab Showed Significant Reductions in the Number of New or Enlarging T2 Lesions per year



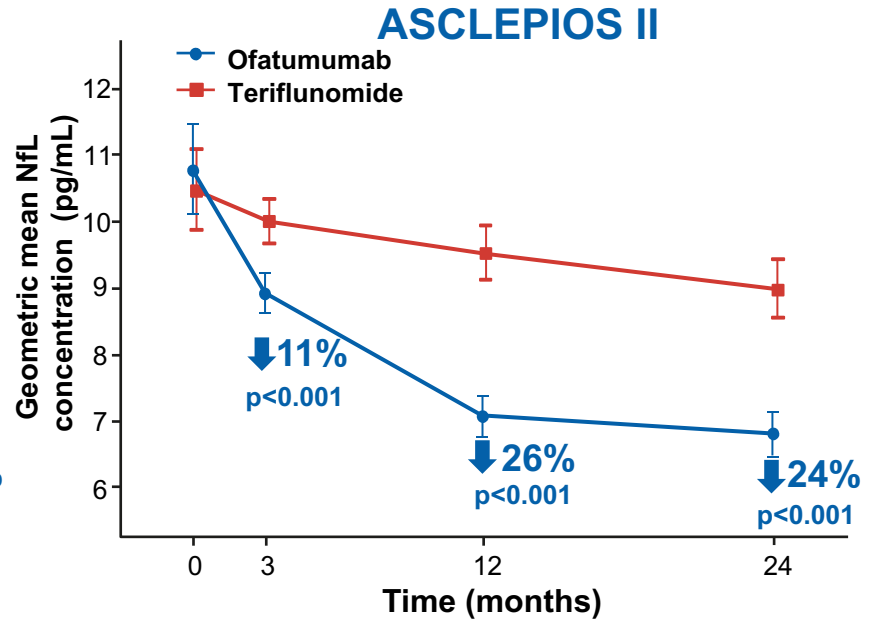
Full analysis set. Secondary endpoint. End of study. <sup>a</sup>Negative binomial regression model of the number of new or enlarging T2 lesions on the last scan relative to the screening scan, with an offset for the time in years between these two scans.

CI, confidence interval; N', total number of patients included in the analysis; 1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS*.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN* 2020.

# Ofatumumab Showed Significant and Consistent Reductions in Serum NfL levels From the First Assessment at Month 3



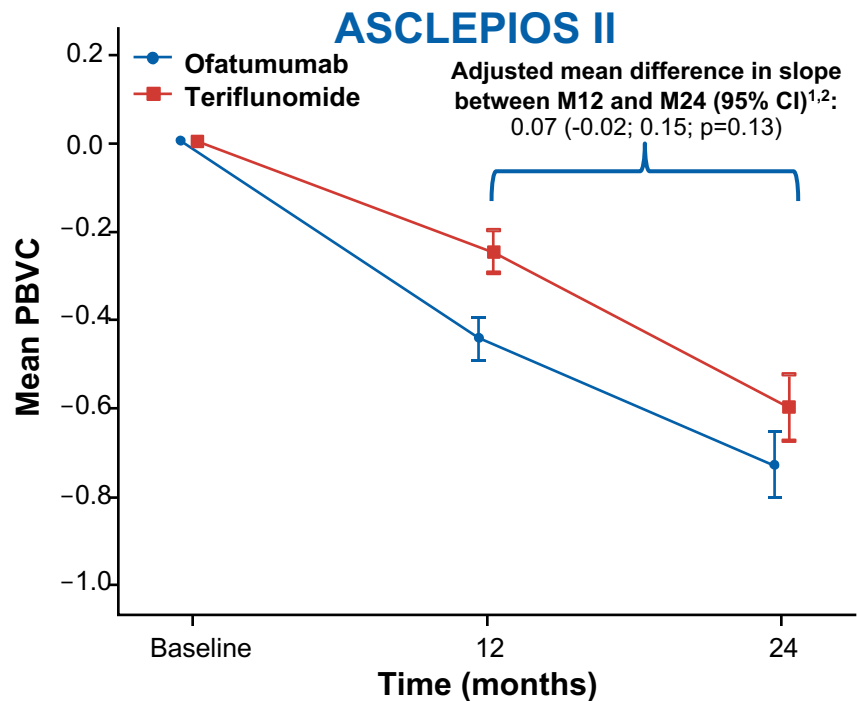
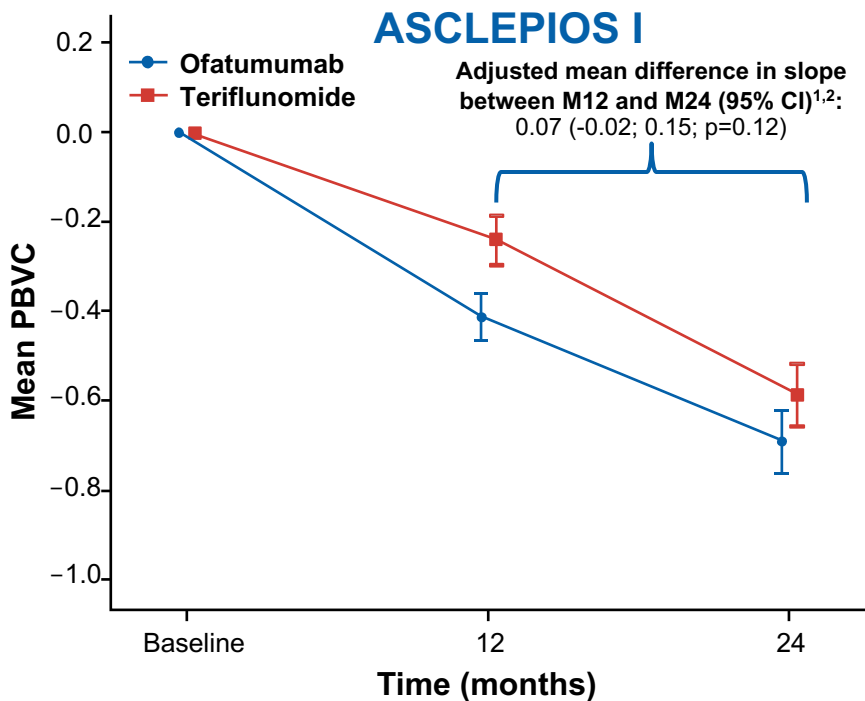
**Geometric mean ratio at Month 3 (95% CI)<sup>1,2</sup>:**  
0.93 (0.89; 0.98) p=0.011



**Geometric mean ratio at Month 3 (95% CI)<sup>1,2</sup>:**  
0.89 (0.85; 0.93) p<0.001



# No Difference in the Slope of Brain Volume Change From Baseline Between Treatments



Whole brain volume was analyzed using the Jacobian integration model.  
Full analysis set. Secondary endpoint. Random coefficient model. CI, confidence interval; M, month; PBVC, percent brain volume change  
1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS*.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN* 2020.

# Comparison of AEs Between Groups; No Unexpected Safety Findings

Safety events <sup>1,2</sup> , n (%)	Teriflunomide (N=936)	Ofatumumab (N=946)
Any adverse events (AEs)	788 (84.2)	791 (83.6)
Any serious AEs	74 (7.9)	86 (9.1)
<b>Most common AEs</b> ( $\geq 5\%$ in any treatment group, by preferred term)		
Injection-related reaction <sup>a</sup>	143 (15.3)	195 (20.6)
Nasopharyngitis	156 (16.7)	170 (18.0)
Headache	116 (12.4)	126 (13.3)
Injection-site reaction	52 (5.6)	103 (10.9)
Upper respiratory tract infection	120 (12.8)	97 (10.3)
Urinary tract infection	78 (8.3)	97 (10.3)
Back pain	58 (6.2)	72 (7.6)
Fatigue	72 (7.7)	71 (7.5)
Influenza	59 (6.3)	62 (6.6)
Nausea	64 (6.8)	61 (6.4)
Blood immunoglobulin M decreased	21 (2.2)	56 (5.9)
Alopecia	138 (14.7)	54 (5.7)
Arthralgia	44 (4.7)	49 (5.2)
Diarrhea	111 (11.9)	49 (5.2)
Pain in extremity	66 (7.1)	46 (4.9)
Depression	48 (5.1)	45 (4.8)
Hypertension	55 (5.9)	35 (3.7)
Paresthesia	52 (5.6)	27 (2.9)

<sup>a</sup>These are injection-systemic reactions; 1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at ECTRIMS.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at AAN 2020.

# Serious Adverse Events Were Low in both groups

Safety events <sup>1,2</sup> , n (%)	Teriflunomide (N=936)	Ofatumumab (N=946)
<b>Any serious AEs</b>	74 (7.9)	86 (9.1)
<b>Most common SAEs</b> (≥1% in any treatment group)		
<b>Primary system organ class</b>		
Infections and infestations	17 (1.8)	24 (2.5)
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	9 (1.0)	13 (1.4)
Nervous system disorders	15 (1.6)	7 (0.7)
Psychiatric disorders	2 (0.2)	10 (1.1)
<b>MedDRA Query/Preferred term</b>		
Malignancies (AEs and SAEs)	4 (0.4) <sup>a</sup>	5 (0.5)

- During the ASCLEPIOS I and II studies, one death occurred
  - Teriflunomide: fatal aortic hemorrhage

<sup>a</sup>One case of basal cell carcinoma was not listed as a serious AE  
 AEs, adverse events; SAEs, serious adverse events; 1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at ECTRIMS.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at AAN 2020.

# Summary and Conclusion

In a typical active RMS population ofatumumab as compared to teriflunomide —

- Reduced ARR by 50.5%–58.5%
- Reduced MRI activity: Gd+ lesions by 93.8%–97.5%; new/enlarging T2 lesions by 82%–84.5%
- Reduced 3-month CDW by 34.4% and 6-month CDW by 32.5% (pooled data)
- Lowered levels of NfL by month 3 (first time-point tested) and at all subsequent visits
- Demonstrated no unexpected safety signals. There was no imbalance in the rates of infections or malignancies (low in both arms)

**Ofatumumab, with a monthly 20 mg s.c.\* dosing regimen, demonstrated high efficacy and no unexpected safety concerns**

\*20 mg of ofatumumab was administered in an injection volume of 0.4 mL.

CDW, confirmed disability worsening; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; NfL, neurofilament light chain; RMS, relapsing multiple sclerosis s.c., subcutaneous; 1. Hauser SL, et al. Presented at *ECTRIMS*.2019. S17.OP336; 2. Kappos L, et al. Presented at *AAN* 2020.

# Data Monitoring Committee Members

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# Sincere Thanks...

- We thank patients and their families for their participation, contribution in advancing science and making these trials possible
- We thank the participating centers and investigators for their commitment to these trials

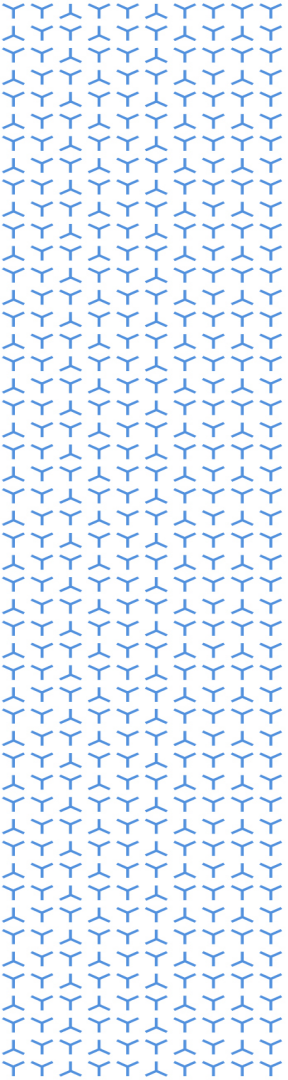
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**Thank you**