Sustained reduction of disability and cognitive decline with long-term siponimod treatment in patients with active SPMS: EXPAND data up to 5 years

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Background

In the EXPAND Core part, in the subgroup of patients with active secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (aSPMS: presence of relapses in the 2 years prior to screening and/or ≥1 T1 gadolinium-enhancing (Gd+) lesion at baseline), siponimod reduced the risk of 3-/6-month confirmed disability progression on Expanded Disability Status Scale (3m/6mCDP) by 31% and 37%, respectively, and the risk of decline in cognitive processing speed (CPS, 6-month confirmed cognition worsening of ≥4-point on Symbol Digit Modalities Test [6mCCW]) by 27% versus placebo.

Objectives

To assess the long-term efficacy and safety of siponimod in patients with aSPMS in the Core and Extension parts of the EXPAND study.

Methods

In patients with aSPMS who had received ≥1 dose of randomized treatment during Core part, and who entered the Extension (36 month extension data cut-off [6 April 2019]; total study duration ≤5 years), time to 3m/6mCDP, 6mCCW, and annualized relapse rate (ARR) were assessed for the Continuous (siponimod in the Core and Extension) and Switch (placebo in the Core and switched to open-label siponimod in the Core/Extension) groups.
Results

Of the 1651 patients randomized in the EXPAND Core part, 582 were with aSPMS (Continuous group: N=516; Switch group: N=263), of which 710 entered the Extension. The risk of 6mCDP was reduced by 29% (0.71 [0.57–0.90]; p=0.0044) for the Continuous versus Switch group, corresponding to an about 70% delay in time to 6mCDP across the 25th–40th percentile. Median time to 6mCDP was 48 months the Switch group and was not reached for the Continuous group. The risk of 6mCCW for the Continuous versus Switch group was reduced by 33% (0.67 [0.53–0.86]); p=0.0018), corresponding to an about 70% delay in time to 6mCCW across the 25th–30th percentile, median time to 6mCCW (55.5 months) was reached only for the Switch group. In patients without active disease, a nonsignificant trend for reduced risk of disability progression and cognitive worsening was observed for the Continuous vs Switch groups. A significant reduction in ARR for the Continuous versus Switch groups was observed in patients with (0.08 vs 0.12; p=0.0023) or without active disease (0.03 vs 0.08; p<0.0001).

Conclusion

In EXPAND, long-term data analyses in the Continuous versus Switch groups showed that siponimod treatment effects on disability, cognitive processing speed, and relapse outcomes in patients with active SPMS are sustained for up to 5 years, and highlight the value of early treatment initiation.

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Disclosure of conflict of interest

Gavin Giovannoni is a steering committee member on the daclizumab trials for AbbVie, the BG12 and daclizumab trials for Biogen, the fingolimod and siponimod trials for Novartis, the laquinimod trials for Teva and the ocrelizumab trials for Roche. He has also received consultancy fees for advisory board meetings for oral cladribine trials for Merck KGaA, Sanofi Genzyme, and in relation to DSMB activities for Synthon BV, as well as honoraria for speaking at the Physicians’ summit and several medical education meetings. He is also the Co-Chief Editor of Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders (Elsevier).

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