

Oral deucravacitinib benefits patients with lupus

November 12 2022



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Tyrosine kinases are enzymes that play central roles in signaling by cytokines involved in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases, including lupus. A recent phase 2 clinical trial published in *Arthritis &*

Rheumatology has generated promising results for deucravacitinib, an oral inhibitor of tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2), in patients with active lupus.

In the trial, 363 patients were randomized 1:1:1:1 to placebo or deucravacitinib 3 mg twice daily, 6 mg twice daily, or 12 mg once daily. At week 32, the percentage of patients who experienced a beneficial response (as assessed by various measures of disease activity) was 34% with placebo compared with 58%, 50%, and 45% with the respective deucravacitinib regimens.

Rates of adverse events were similar across groups, except for higher rates of infections and skin-related events, including rash and acne, with deucravacitinib. Rates of serious adverse events were comparable, with no deaths, [opportunistic infections](#), tuberculosis, major adverse cardiovascular events, or thrombotic events reported.

"TYK2 transducer signals a unique set of cytokines that are highly relevant to SLE," said corresponding author Eric Morand, MBBS, Ph.D., of Monash University. "These results put TYK2 on the map as a target for lupus and encourage further development of deucravacitinib in this disease."

More information: Eric Morand et al, Deucravacitinib, a Tyrosine Kinase 2 Inhibitor, in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial, *Arthritis & Rheumatology* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/art.42391](https://doi.org/10.1002/art.42391)

Provided by Wiley

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