

Voclosporin: Adis Evaluation

Clinical Considerations

- Improves complete renal response rate in active lupus nephritis
- Leads to early and sustained reductions in proteinuria
- Generally well tolerated
- First oral treatment and only calcineurin inhibitor currently approved for active lupus nephritis

Plain Language Summary

Background and rationale

- Lupus nephritis, one of the most severe complications of SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus, a chronic autoimmune disease), occurs when the immune system attacks the kidneys and can lead to kidney failure. Lupus nephritis is one of the main causes of death in SLE.
- Voclosporin (Lupkynis™), a calcineurin inhibitor, suppresses the immune system and reduces kidney inflammation in lupus nephritis.
- Voclosporin is used in adults patients in the USA with active lupus nephritis in conjunction with other background treatments that suppress the immune system, including mycophenolate mofetil and corticosteroids.

Clinical findings

- Voclosporin added to background immunosuppressive agents was more effective than background therapy alone in preserving or improving kidney function, rapidly reduced proteinuria and was well tolerated. The beneficial effects of voclosporin on kidney function were maintained longer term

Conclusion

Voclosporin is the first oral treatment specifically approved for active lupus nephritis and expands the treatment options available for this disease.

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