

Avacopan: Adis Evaluation

Clinical Considerations

- Orally administered, first-in-class, small molecule, selective antagonist of the complement fragment 5a receptor (C5aR)
- Non-inferior in achieving remission at week 26 and superior in sustaining remission at week 52 versus the tapered prednisone regimen
- May have beneficial effects on relapse rates, glucocorticoid-induced toxicity, kidney function and health-related quality of life
- Manageable tolerability profile; associated with less frequent overall infections, serious infections and serious opportunistic infections than the prednisone regimen

Plain Language Summary

Background and rationale

- Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) are conditions that result in inflamed small- to medium-sized blood vessels in various organs, including the lungs, kidneys, eyes, ears, nose, throat, skin and nervous system
- Rapid diagnosis and treatment are critical, with the organ damage (which is often cumulative and irreversible) resulting from obstructed or broken vessels leading to several poor outcomes
- Current treatment options (e.g. glucocorticoids) are, however, associated with a range of toxicities
- Avacopan (TAVNEOS®) is an orally administered drug that targets a specific receptor involved in the disease process

Clinical findings

- Compared with a gradually reduced dose of the glucocorticoid prednisone, avacopan was as effective in achieving remission at week 26 and superior in sustaining remission at week 52 in individuals with GPA or MPA
- Avacopan may permit the accompanying glucocorticoid dose to be reduced, thereby reducing glucocorticoid-induced toxicity, and may improve relapse rates, kidney function and quality of life
- Infections are a major driver of early mortality in individuals with GPA and MPA, but were less frequently seen with avacopan than prednisone

Conclusion

Oral avacopan is an effective and glucocorticoid-sparing treatment option with a manageable tolerability profile for adults with GPA and MPA.

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