Dupilumab Improves Multiple Outcomes in Adults and Adolescents with Eosinophilic Gastritis (EoG)

Eosinophilic Gastritis



The Disease

• Eosinophilic gastritis (EoG) is a long-term, inflammatory disease of the stomach that affects people of all ages

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• It causes symptoms such as stomach pain, heartburn, nausea, and vomiting, and significantly impacts quality of life

Dupilumab demonstrated

improvements in gastric eosinophil

EoG, and gene expression profiles;

improvements were maintained

through 36 weeks of treatment.

Dupilumab was well tolerated

count, endoscopic and histologic

features of EoG, symptoms of

• There are currently no approved treatments for EoG

The Study

- Dupilumab is a biologic medication that blocks the pathways leading to inflammation in EoG
- The DEGAS study assessed whether treatment with dupilumab every other week improved EoG outcomes compared with inactive medication (placebo) in 41 adults and adolescents



Improvements were seen with dupilumab at Week 12 and maintained through 36 weeks of treatment.

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Adverse Events

The incidence of adverse events was 81–89% across treatment groups and trial phases. Common adverse events included blood eosinophilia (which had similar incidence with dupilumab and placebo), injection-site reaction, and sinusitis. There were no serious adverse events.



Dupilumab Improves Histologic and Endoscopic Features of Eosinophilic Gastritis: Results from the Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Phase 2 DEGAS Trial

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Disclosure Information

Nirmala P. Gonsalves, MD

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- Speaker fees: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc., Sanofi, Takeda





Background: Eosinophilic Gastritis (EoG)

- EoG is a rare, chronic disease characterized by eosinophilia of the stomach and GI symptoms that can significantly impact QoL¹⁻⁸
 - Pathophysiology driven by food antigens and type 2 immune dysregulation, with upregulation of IL-4 and IL-13^{9–11}
 - Symptoms include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, early satiety, bloating, and diarrhea^{3,4,12}







Background: Endoscopic Features of EoG

Eosinophilic Gastritis Endoscopic Reference System (EoG-REFS)¹³



- Erosion/Ulceration
- Granularity
- Raised lesion/nodule
- Erythema
- Thickened Folds
- Friability
- Pyloric Stenosis





Background: Histopathologic Features of EoG

Eosinophilic Gastritis Histology Scoring System (EoG-HSS)¹⁴



- Eosinophil sheets (rectangle)
- Numerous individual eosinophils (black arrows)
- Smooth muscle bundles (red arrows)
- Reactive surface epithelial cells (arrowheads)
 - Additional components (e.g. eosinophils in muscularis mucosa) not illustrated here





Background: Dupilumab

- There are currently no FDA-approved treatments for EoG
- Dupilumab is a fully human monoclonal antibody that blocks the IL-4/IL-13 shared receptor component
 - Efficacious in multiple type 2 inflammatory diseases including eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE)^{15,16}







 Consortium of Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disease Researchers (CEGIR), in collaboration with the NIH, Regeneron and Sanofi^a, designed the study to assess efficacy and safety of dupilumab vs placebo in adults and adolescents with symptomatic, histologically active EoG







Phase 2 DEGAS Trial (NCT03678545)





^aAn initial dose of 600 mg was administered at baseline and at Week 12 for patients switching from placebo to dupilumab, followed by 300 mg q2w. ^bOne patient discontinued placebo due to worsening EoG symptoms. ^cThree patients discontinued dupilumab in the OLE: one patient discontinued due to personal reasons, one patient discontinued due to arthritis, and one patient discontinued due to arthritis, eye disorder, and gastroesophageal reflux disease.

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DBP, double-blind phase; EGD, esophagogastroduodenoscopy; EoG, eosinophilic gastritis; OLE, open-label extension; q2w, every 2 weeks; R, randomized.

Study Sites across the US

- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- University of North Carolina
- Northwestern University
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Riley Children's Hospital
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- University of Pennsylvania
- Baylor College of Medicine
- University of Utah
- University of Colorado







Inclusion Criteria

Key inclusion criteria:

- Aged \geq 12 to <71 years
- Gastric eosinophil count of ≥30 eos/hpf in ≥5 hpfs in the gastric antrum and/or body at screening
- History of moderate-to-severe EoG symptoms^a occurring ≥2 days/week in the 2 weeks prior to screening
- EoG symptoms ≥2 days/week in the 2 weeks prior to randomization using daily EoG symptoms diary
- Asthma Control Test score ≥20







Exclusion Criteria

Key exclusion criteria:

- Active *Helicobacter pylori* infection
- Use of biologic agents within 4 months or 5 half lives, whichever is longer, prior to screening
- Use of systemic steroids (daily dose >10 mg) or steroid burst for >3 days within 1 month of screening
- Prior exposure to dupilumab







	Endpoints
Primary	Relative (percentage) change from baseline in mean gastric eosinophil count ^a
Key secondary	Absolute change from baseline in EoG Histology score ^{17,b}
	Absolute change from baseline in mean gastric eosinophil count ^a
	Absolute change from baseline in EoG Endoscopy score ^{13,c}
	Absolute change from baseline in EoG Symptom score ^d
	Proportion of patients achieving histopathologic remission
	(<30 eos/hpf in all 5 hpfs)
Exploratory	Absolute change from baseline in EoG Transcriptomic score ^{11,e}



^aMean of the eosinophil counts from the 5 most eosinophil-dense hpfs in the gastric antrum and/or body. ^bEoG-Histologic Scoring System total score. ^cEoG-Endoscopic Reference System total score. ^dPost-baseline EoG-Symptom Questionnaire Total Symptom Score was based on the summed daily severity scores recorded in an eDiary for stomach pain, stomach cramping, nausea, bloating, early satiety, and loss of appetite, averaged over a 7-day period. ^eEoG-Diagnostic Panel₁₈ score. EoG, eosinophilic gastritis; eos/hpf, eosinophils per high-power field; hpf, high-power field.



Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics Were Generally Similar across Groups

Demographic/characteristic	Placebo (N = 20)	Dupilumab (N = 21)	
Age (years), mean (SD)	30.7 (14.0)	30.3 (12.8)	
<18 years, n (%)	4 (20)	3 (14)	
Female sex, n (%)	10 (50)	15 (71)	
Race, n (%)			
Asian	0 (0)	1 (5)	
Black or African American	1 (5)	0 (0)	
White	19 (95)	18 (86)	
≥2 races ^a	0 (0)	2 (10)	
Height (cm), mean (SD)	167.3 (12.3)	166.7 (13.0)	
Body weight (kg), mean (SD)	72.1 (22.0)	70.9 (25.2)	
Years since EoG diagnosis, median (IQR)	6.2 (3.2, 11.2)	2.8 (1.7, 8.1)	



EGiR ^aRaces include "White" and "Asian." EoG, eosinophilic gastritis; IQR, interquartile range; SD, standard deviation.

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Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics Were Generally Similar across Groups

Demographic/characteristic	Placebo (N = 20)	Dupilumab (N = 21)	
Mean gastric eosinophil count, median (IQR)	61.8 (40.1, 124.9)	66.0 (47.4, 132.0)	
EoG Histology score, mean (SD)	0.39 (0.14)	0.39 (0.20)	
EoG Endoscopy score, median (IQR)	5.5 (4.0, 11.0)	8.0 (6.0, 9.0)	
EoG Symptom score, mean (SD)	23.9 (10.6)	18.8 (12.4)	
History of EoE, n (%)	12 (60)	14 (67)	
Atopic disease n (%)	14 (70)	13 (62)	
Asthma, n (%)	7 (35)	8 (38)	
Eczema/atopic dermatitis, n (%)	7 (35)	4 (19)	
Allergic rhinitis/sinusitis, n (%)	2 (10)	1 (5)	
Food allergy, n (%)	3 (15)	1 (5)	
Current use of systemic corticosteroids, n (%)	1 (5)	0 (0)	
Current use of topical corticosteroids, n (%)	3 (15)	5 (24)	
Current use of food elimination diet, n (%)	13 (65)	15 (71)	



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Primary Endpoint: Relative Change in Mean Gastric Eosinophil Count^a Was Significantly Greater with Dupilumab vs Placebo at Week 12



Improvements were maintained at Week 36



^aMean of the eosinophil counts from the 5 most eosinophil-dense hpfs in the gastric antrum and/or body. The relative change from baseline defined as Week 12 – baseline/baseline. LS means of each of the treatment groups (95% CIs) calculated using linear regression. Treatment was the only independent variable included in modeling. CI, confidence interval; hpf, high-power field; LS, least squares; q2w, every 2 weeks.



Secondary Endpoint: Absolute Reduction in Mean Gastric Eosinophil Count^a was Significantly Greater with Dupilumab vs Placebo at Week 12



Improvements were maintained at Week 36



^aMean of the eosinophil counts from the 5 most eosinophil-dense hpfs in the gastric antrum and/or body. Median and IQR reported. *P* value calculated using Wilcoxon Rank Sum test. hpf, high-power field; IQR, interquartile range.



Secondary Endpoint: Absolute Reduction in Histopathologic Features of EoG^a was Significantly Greater with Dupilumab vs Placebo at Week 12







^aEoG-Histologic Scoring System total score. ^bScore ranges from 0 to 1, with higher scores indicating greater severity/extent of histopathologic changes. LS means of each of the treatment groups (95% CIs) calculated using linear regression. CI, confidence interval; EoG-HSS, EoG-Histologic Scoring System; LS, least squares.



Secondary Endpoint: Absolute Reduction in Endoscopic Features of EoG^a was Significantly Greater with Dupilumab vs Placebo at Week 12



Improvements were maintained at Week 36



^aEoG-Endoscopic Reference System. ^bScore ranges from 0 to 45, with higher scores indicating greater severity of endoscopic features. LS means of each of the treatment groups (95% CIs) calculated using linear regression. CI, confidence interval; EoG-REFS, EoG-Endoscopic Reference System; LS, least squares.



Secondary Endpoint: There was a Numeric Reduction in EoG Symptoms^a with Dupilumab at Week 12



Further trends to improvement were observed at Week 36



^aEoG-Symptom Questionnaire Total Symptom Score. ^bScore ranges from 0 to 60, with higher scores indicating greater symptom severity. LS means of each of the treatment groups (95% CIs) calculated using linear regression. CI, confidence interval; EoG-SQ TSS, EoG-Symptom Questionnaire Total Symptom Score; LS, least squares.



Secondary Endpoint: The Proportion of Patients Achieving Histopathologic Remission^a Trended to Be Greater with Dupilumab vs Placebo at Week 12





^aDefined as peak eosinophil count <30 eos/hpf in all hpfs. Data reported as proportion of patients (exact 95% Cl). Cl, confidence interval; eos/hpf, eosinophils per high-power field; hpf, high-power field.



Exploratory Endpoint: EoG Transcriptome Score^a Increased with Dupilumab at Week 12, Indicating Improvement of the Gene Signature



Further trends to improvement were observed at Week 36



Change in EoG-DP score

^aEoG-Diagnostic Panel₁₈ score. LS means of each of the treatment groups (95% CIs) calculated using linear regression. Increased scores indicate improvement. CI, confidence interval; EoG-DP, EoG-Diagnostic Panel; LS, least squares.



Dupilumab Normalized the Expression of Specific Genes at Week 12



Red markers indicate genes that significantly improved versus baseline



-log10 FDR P value

Y-axis represents the negative log10 false discovery rate P value determined by differential expression; red indicates genes that significantly improved versus baseline. X-axis represents genes organized within functional groupings. EMT, epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition; FDR, false discovery rate.



No Serious Adverse Events Were Reported

	DBP: Week 12		OLE: Week 36	
n (%)	Placebo (N = 20)	Dupilumab (N = 21)	Placebo – Dupilumab (N = 19)	Dupilumab – Dupilumab (N = 21)
Any TEAE	17 (85)	17 (81)	17 (89)	17 (81)
Any SAE	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Any TEAE leading to permanent discontinuation of placebo or dupilumab	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (11)	0 (0)
Any TEAE leading to death	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
TEAEs occurring in ≥15% of patients in any group				
Eosinophilia	7 (35)	6 (29)	5 (26)	3 (14)
Injection-site reaction	3 (15)	7 (33)	4 (21)	5 (24)
Sinusitis	3 (15)	1 (5)	3 (16)	3 (14)



Adverse events were reported according to Preferred Terms in the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities, with the exception of elevated peripheral eosinophilia, which was graded according to the increase in eosinophil count from screening.



DBP, double-blind phase; OLE, open-label extension; SAE, serious adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

There Was No Overall Trend in Blood Eosinophil Count with Dupilumab or Placebo Over 36 Weeks





All patients received dupilumab from Week 12. Individual data are shown as light purple and light pink lines. Purple and pink markers/lines represent the group geometric means at each week. AEC, absolute eosinophil count; W, week.



Conclusions

- Dupilumab significantly improved gastric eosinophil counts and histopathologic, endoscopic, and transcriptomic outcomes vs placebo in adults/adolescents with EoG
 - Improvements at Week 12 were maintained or further improved at Week 36
- Symptoms and histopathologic remission should be assessed in a study powered for those outcomes
 - Based on a study of dupilumab in EoE,¹⁸ a dose of dupilumab 300 mg qw may be needed to alleviate EoG symptoms
- The DEGAS study provides proof-of-principle for the potential value of dupilumab for EoG, suggesting that the benefit of dupilumab for EoE may extend to additional eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases









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Improvements at Week 12 Were Maintained at Week 36 (1/2)

	Double-blind phase (Week 12)			Open-label extension (Week 36)		
	Placebo (N = 20) ^a	Dupilumab (N = 21)	P value	Placebo–Dupilumab (N = 19)	Dupilumab–Dupilumab (N = 21)	
Relative (percentage) change in mean gastric eosinophil count ^b						
LS mean (95% CI) /mean (95% CI) ^c	n = 19 –3.54 (–20.27, 13.19)	-50.28 (-66.20, -34.37)	<0.001	n = 16 ^d -46.2 (-60.3, -32.0)	n = 20 –61.9 (–77.0, –46.8)	
Absolute change in mean	gastric eosinophil count ^ь					
Median (IQR)	n = 19 -3.2 (-18.2, 35.0)	-36.0 (-55.8, -10.0)	<0.001	n = 16 ^d -29.4 (-72.7, -20.1)	n = 20 -49.5 (-88.5, -27.2)	
Absolute change in EoG Histology score ^e						
LS mean (95% CI) /mean (95% CI) ^c	n = 19 -0.01 (-0.06, 0.04)	-0.12 (-0.17, -0.06)	0.006	n = 16 ^d -0.11 (-0.19, -0.03)	n = 20 -0.21 (-0.30, -0.12)	
Absolute change in EoG Endoscopy score ^f						
LS mean (95% CI) /mean (95% CI)º	n = 19 -0.06 (-2.06, 1.94)	-3.47 (-5.37, -1.58)	0.02	-1.84 (-4.56, 0.88)	n = 20 -3.70 (-5.41, -2.00)	



^aTwenty patients were assigned to placebo, however one patient discontinued placebo during the double-blind period due to worsening symptoms of EoG. ^bMean of the eosinophil counts from the 5 most eosinophil-dense hpfs in the gastric antrum and/or body. ^cLS mean (95% CI) is reported at Week 12, mean (95% CI) is reported at Week 36. ^dThree patients had missing data. ^eEoG-Histologic Scoring System total score. ^fEoG-Endoscopic Reference System total score. CI, confidence interval; EoG, eosinophilic gastritis; hpf, high-power field; IQR, interquartile range; LS, least squares.



Improvements at Week 12 Were Maintained at Week 36 (2/2)

	Double-blind phase (Week 12)			Open-label extension (Week 36)		
	Placebo (N = 20) ^a	Dupilumab (N = 21)	<i>P</i> value	Placebo–Dupilumab (N = 19)	Dupilumab–Dupilumab (N = 21)	
Absolute change in the EoG Symptom score ^b						
LS mean (95% CI) /mean (95% CI) ^c	n = 18 -6.24 (-10.05, -2.44)	n = 18 –10.18 (–13.96, –6.40)	0.15	n = 10 –11.95 (–19.62, –4.29)	n = 9 -13.48 (-24.78, -2.19)	
Proportion of patients achieving histopathologic remission (<30 eos/hpf in all 5 hpfs)						
n/N (% [95% CI])	2/19 (10.53 [1.3, 33.14])	5/21 (23.81 [8.22, 47.17])	0.41	5/16 ^d (31.25 [11.02, 58.66])	8/20 (40.00 [19.12, 63.95])	
Absolute change in EoG Transcriptomic score ^e						
LS mean (95% CI) /mean (95% CI) ^c	n = 17 -8.85 (-21.01, 3.31)	n = 20 21.94 (10.83, 33.06)	<0.001	n = 18 26.50 (7.94, 45.06)	n = 19 36.21 (21.42, 51.00)	



^a20 patients were assigned to placebo, however one patient discontinued placebo during the double-blind period due to worsening symptoms of EoG. ^bEoG-Symptom Questionnaire Total Symptom Score. ^cLS mean (95% CI) is reported at Week 12, mean (95% CI) is reported at Week 36. ^dThree patients had missing data. ^eEoG-Diagnostic Panel₁₈ score. CI, confidence interval; EoG, eosinophilic gastritis; hpf, high-power field; LS, least squares.



Paired Endoscopic and Histologic Images Pre-/Post-Treatment: Placebo/Dupilumab Patient



- A: Endoscopy image of antrum at baseline
- B: Biopsy at baseline
- C: Endoscopy image of antrum at Week 12
- D: Biopsy at Week 12
- E: Endoscopy image of antrum at Week 36
- F: Biopsy at Week 36





Paired Endoscopic and Histologic Images Pre-/Post-Treatment: Dupilumab/Dupilumab Patient



- A: Endoscopy image of antrum at baseline
- B: Biopsy at baseline
- C: Endoscopy image of antrum at Week 12
- D: Biopsy at Week 12
- E: Endoscopy image of antrum at Week 36
- F: Biopsy at Week 36





Absolute Eosinophil Count Adverse Event Grading Table

Grade	Screening AEC <500	Screening AEC 500–1000	Screening AEC 1000–1500	Screening AEC >1500
1	AEC >1000	AEC >1500	AEC >2000	Absolute increase >1000 ^a
2	AEC >1500	AEC >3000	AEC >3000	Absolute increase >3000 ^a
3	AEC >5000	AEC >5000	AEC >5000	Absolute increase >5000 ^a
4	Hyper-eosinophilic disease requiring treatment	Hyper-eosinophilic disease requiring treatment	Hyper-eosinophilic disease requiring treatment	Hyper-eosinophilic disease requiring treatment
5	Death	Death	Death	Death



