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This just in: Latest late-breaking research

March 3, 2019

Two Saturday afternoon late-breaking sessions put a spotlight on the latest groundbreaking observations in clinical trial research and pediatric clinical studies. These unpublished results offer critical data and information in recent investigations and clinical practice.

Highlights from “Late-breaking Research: Clinical Trials” (S034)

During her late-breaking presentation, Dedee Murrell, MD, head of dermatology at The St. George Hospital Clinical School and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, shared her research in treating patients with pemphigus and avoiding adverse events associated with the prolonged use of corticosteroids.



“Pemphigus patients want to quickly control the disease with minimal or no corticosteroids or their associated toxicities,” Dr. Murrell said. “Principia’s oral BTK inhibitor, acting as an immune modulator, demonstrated positive phase I and II clinical results.”

Elena Peeva, MD, MSc, FACR, from Pfizer presented research on oral Janus Kinase inhibitors PF-06700841 and PF-06651600. Her work studied the clinically evident therapeutic effect in patients with alopecia areata at four and six weeks and the greater efficacy in patients with a shorter duration of their current alopecia episode over 24 weeks.

“In alopecia areata, oral JAK3 and TYK2/JAK1 inhibitors (PF-06651600 and PF-06700841, respectively) demonstrated onset of effect by six weeks. In a disease-episode shorter than 3.5 years, it was associated with greater 24-week response,” Dr. Peeva said.




In presenting his research of a phase IIb study of bimekizumab in providing “lasting relief” for patients with psoriasis, Andrew Blauvelt, MD, MBA, president of Research Excellence & Personalized Patient Care in Portland, Oregon, said results of his 60-week study yielded positive results.

“This demonstrates the value of the unique dual neutralization of IL-17F, along with IL-17A, and its potential to provide meaningful and lasting skin clearance for psoriasis and other inflammatory diseases,” he said.




In another study of psoriasis, Joel Gelfand, MD, MSCE, a dermatologist with Penn Medicine in Philadelphia, presented his findings on the safety of IL-17A inhibition in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease. Psoriasis increases the risk of cardiovascular inflammation and cardiovascular events. Specifically, his results showed that secukinumab has a neutral impact on aortic vascular inflammation and CV biomarkers.

Tweeting about the meeting



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Alice Gottlieb, MD, PhD, a dermatologist at New York Medical College, released the findings of her phase II study for novel therapy bermekimab in patients with hidradenitis suppurativa.

“Bermekimab findings in moderate-to-severe hidradenitis suppurativa show treatment is effective even in patients failing current approved biological therapy, and provides unprecedented reduction in severe pain associated with the disease,” Dr. Gottlieb said.

Similarly, Ted Lain, MD, a dermatologist in Pflugerville, Texas, shared two phase III studies of KX2-391 ointment with short five-day self-treatment for actinic keratosis. His research yielded excellent efficacy and safety results. KX2-391 may be a valuable alternative treatment for AK patients, if approved, Dr. Lain said.

Highlights from Late-breaking Research: Clinical Studies/Pediatric” (F078)

John Barbieri, MD, a dermatologist in Mason, Ohio, was among the speakers to showcase his research in the Saturday afternoon session. His research, spanning 2008 to 2016, studied the use of antibiotics in dermatology surgery.

“We found that antibiotic use associated with dermatologic procedures is increasing, and there is significant geographic variation, suggesting there may be opportunities to improve use of prophylactic antibiotics associated with procedures,” Dr. Barbieri said.

Lawrence F. Eichenfield, MD, a professor and dermatologist with the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego, presented his research on molluscum contagiosum, a common and highly contagious skin infection for which there are no FDA-approved treatments. Current unapproved methods of treatment have significant limitations, including pain, scarring, and unproven efficacy. Many are unsuitable for use in children.

“Verrica has formulated VP-102, a consistent, stable cantharadin product, and has now completed two parallel vehicle-controlled studies that show the efficacy and good tolerability,” Dr. Eichenfield said. “Having an FDA-approved therapy that can minimize molluscum infection would be very helpful for our patients and families.”

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