INCEPTION study is recruiting CSU patients (info for UCARE conference physicians)

INCEPTION study is "A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter, Dose-Ranging, Phase 2b Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of **Tezepelumab** for the Treatment of **Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria (CSU)"**

What is Tezepelumab?

Tezepelumab is an anti-TSLP (Thymic stromal lymphopoietin) monoclonal antibody that binds with high affinity to human TSLP and inhibits the TSLP-mediated signaling initiated by the TSLP:TSLP receptor binding. It has been shown to lower blood eosinophils, total Ig E, and Th2 pathway activity (IL-5,IL-13). From the large set of preclinical and clinical evidence, tezepelumab effectively reduces TSLP and impacts multiple biological pathways involved in asthma (Corren et al, 2017).

TSLP is an epithelial cytokine shown to be elevated in numerous inflammatory diseases, impacts multiple biological pathways involved in CSU. TSLP has been shown to be increased in the skin of patients with CSU (Hazzan et al, 2019). Mast cell numbers are also known to be increased up to 3-fold in the skin of CSU patients (Kay et al, 2015). Recently, TSLP has been identified as a potent survival promoter of human skin mast cells and is hypothesized to be responsible for the increased number of mast cells in the skin of patients. Blocking TSLP may reduce both problematic Ig E species and mast cells, which jointly act as the central driver of CSU skin inflammation. There is also strong preclinical and clinical evidence that TSLP plays a role in Th2-mediated pathways, and TSLP is a reasonable target for the treatment of CSU (Gauvreau, et al. 2020)

Tezepelumab is being developed by a joint program between Amgen and AstraZeneca for several indications including Asthma, CSU and others.

INCEPTION study is currently recruiting moderate to severe CSU patients who are refractory to second generation H1 antihistamine (sgAH).

The study is open for recruiting for both anti-IgE naïve and anti-IgE treated patients in 10 countries including:

- Asia Pacific: Japan and South Korea
- North America: United states and Canada
- Europe: Germany, Poland, Spain, Italy, Greece, France

The key inclusion criteria of the INCEPTION study

- 18 to 80 years of age at screening
- Willing and able to complete a daily symptom eDiary for the duration of the study and adhere to the study visit schedules
- CSU diagnosis established ≥ 6 months prior to screening visit 1
- CSU inadequately controlled by sgAH at enrollment, as defined by all of the following:
  - The presence of itch and hives for ≥ 6 consecutive weeks at any time prior to screening visit 2
  - Failure to respond to an sgAH (up to 4 times the approved dose)
  - Urticaria Activity Score over 7 days (UAS7) (range 0-42) ≥ 16 and Hives Severity Score over 7 days (HSS7) (range 0-21) ≥8 during the 7 days prior to randomization/dosing
- Subject must have been on a sgAH, at approved, or increased doses (up to 4x the approved dose) for treatment of CSU for ≥ 3 consecutive days, immediately prior to screening visit 2, and must have documented current use on the day of screening visit 1
- For anti-IgE treated subjects: A subject with CSU who discontinued, is intolerant to, or was an inadequate responder to anti-IgE therapies despite being treated with omalizumab 300 mg Q4W for 6 months or higher doses of omalizumab > 2 months (or per local country treatment standards) or another anti-IgE therapy

For additional INCEPTION study information, go to:

(1) clinicaltrials.gov Identifier—NCT04833855, or click the link here INCEPTION study
(2) EU clinical trial register Identifier—2020-002759-39, or click the link here INCEPTION study

If you have already been selected as one of the investigators for the INCEPTION study, we thank you for your participation and encourage you to recruit eligible CSU patients into the INCEPTION study, especially those previously treated with anti-IgE. If you are currently not in the tezepelumab studies, and interested in participating in the current or future clinical studies, please feel free to reach out to the following contact info:
Sarah Williams, Director, Global Clinical Program Management, Amgen Email:sarwilli@amgen.com