

Journal Club: Dupilumab for COPD with Type 2 Inflammation Indicated by Eosinophil Counts: Challenges and Opportunities



Surya P. Bhatt, MD, MSPH

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Dupilumab for COPD with Type 2 Inflammation Indicated by Eosinophil Counts

Bhatt SP, Rabe K, Hanania N, Vogelmeier C, Cole J, Bafadhel M, Christenson SA, Papi A, Singh D, Laws E, Mannent LP, Patel N, Staudinger HW, Yancopoulos GD, Mortensen ER, Akinlade B, Maloney J, Lu X, Bauer D, Bansal A, Robinson LB, Abdulai RM; BOREAS Investigators. N Engl J Med, 2023 Jul 20.



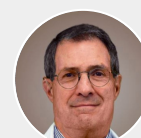
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Jerry A. Krishnan, MD, PhD
University of Illinois Chicago



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Robert A. Wise, MD
Johns Hopkins University



Commentary by
Stephen Rennard, MD
University of Nebraska

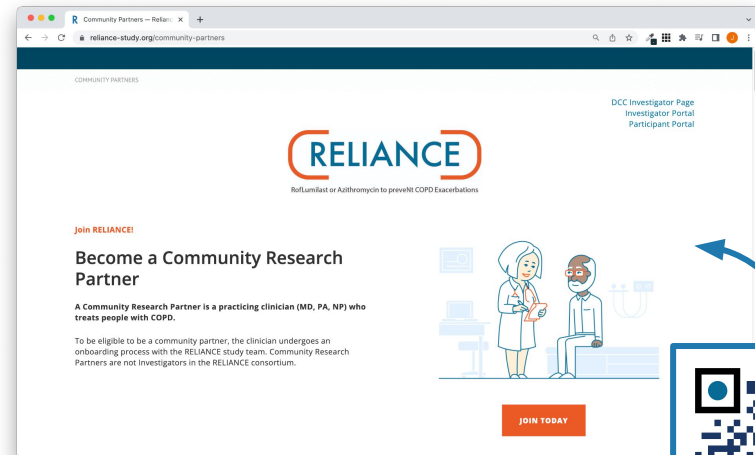


Commentary by
Richard Albert, MD
University of Colorado

1. Please mute yourself
2. **Put questions + comments in the chat**
3. Consider joining RELIANCE, or tell a colleague!
 - a. Pragmatic clinical trial embedded in clinical practice, funded by PCORI
 - b. Long-term azithromycin vs. roflumilast in patients with COPD associated with chronic bronchitis
 - c. N=540 enrolled as of 9/13/2023
 - d. ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT04069312

Learn more about RELIANCE and how to join

<https://www.reliance-study.org/community-partners>





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Critical Care Medicine

Director, UAB Lung Imaging Lab

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Investigators. N Engl J Med, 2023 Jul 20.

Challenges and Opportunities of Dupilumab for COPD with Type 2 Inflammation Indicated by Eosinophil Counts

RELIANCE Round Table Journal Club

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Professor of Medicine

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Dupilumab for COPD with Type 2
Inflammation Indicated by Eosinophil Counts

S.P. Bhatt, K.F. Rabe, N.A. Hanania, C.F. Vogelmeier, J. Cole, M. Bafadhel,
S.A. Christenson, A. Papi, D. Singh, E. Laws, L.P. Mannent, N. Patel, H.W. Staudinger,
G.D. Yancopoulos, E.R. Mortensen, B. Akinlade, J. Maloney, X. Lu, D. Bauer,
A. Bansal, L.B. Robinson, and R.M. Abdulai, for the BOREAS Investigators*

September 19, 2023



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Disclosures

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Advisory Board/Consulting

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National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute



National Institute of
Biomedical Imaging
and Bioengineering

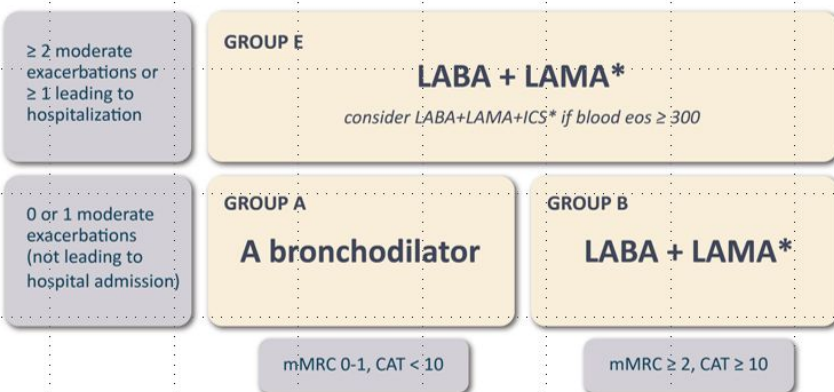
Background

- 50% of patients continue to have persistent symptoms and exacerbations despite optimization of existing therapy
- COPD exacerbations are associated with:
 - High morbidity
 - Lung function decline and emphysema progression
 - Increased risk of death

Pharmacological Treatment of COPD

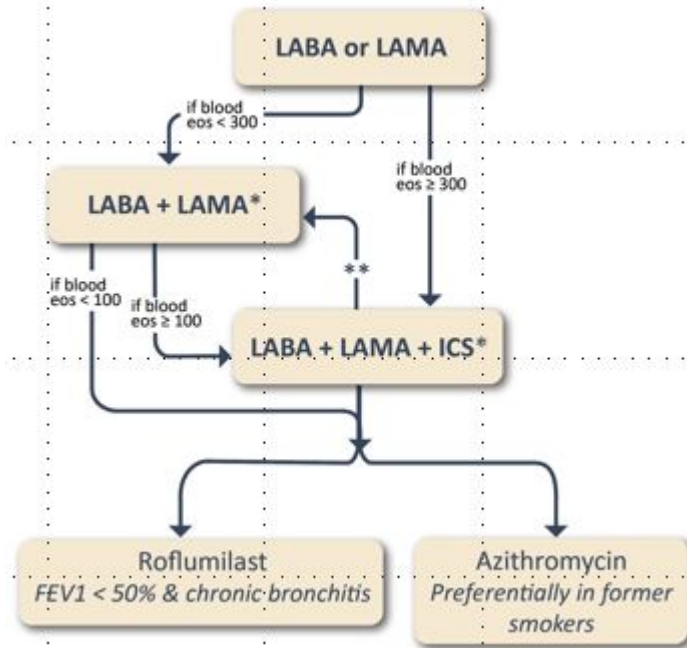
Initial Pharmacological Treatment

Figure 4.2



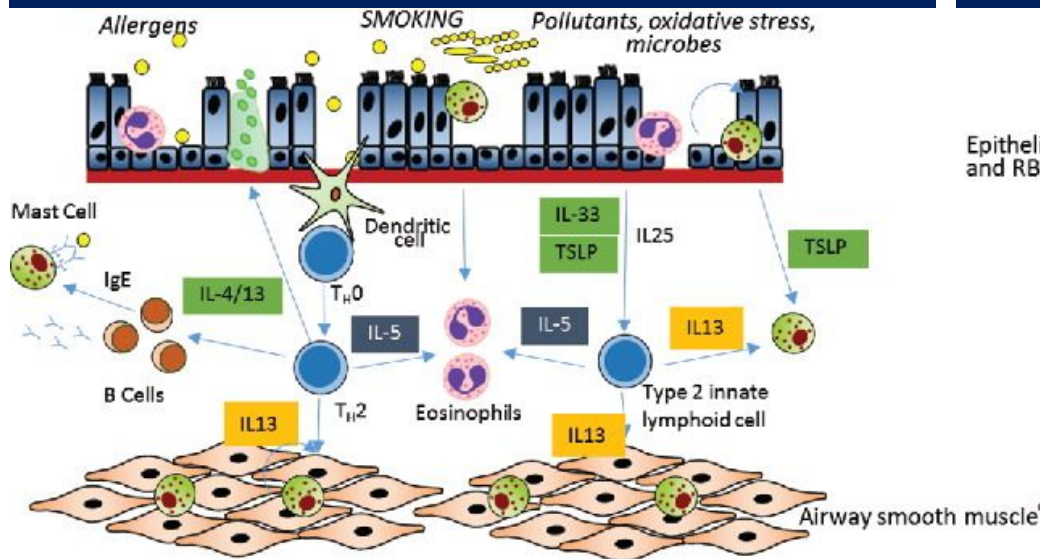
*single inhaler therapy may be more convenient and effective than multiple inhalers
Exacerbations refers to the number of exacerbations per year

EXACERBATIONS



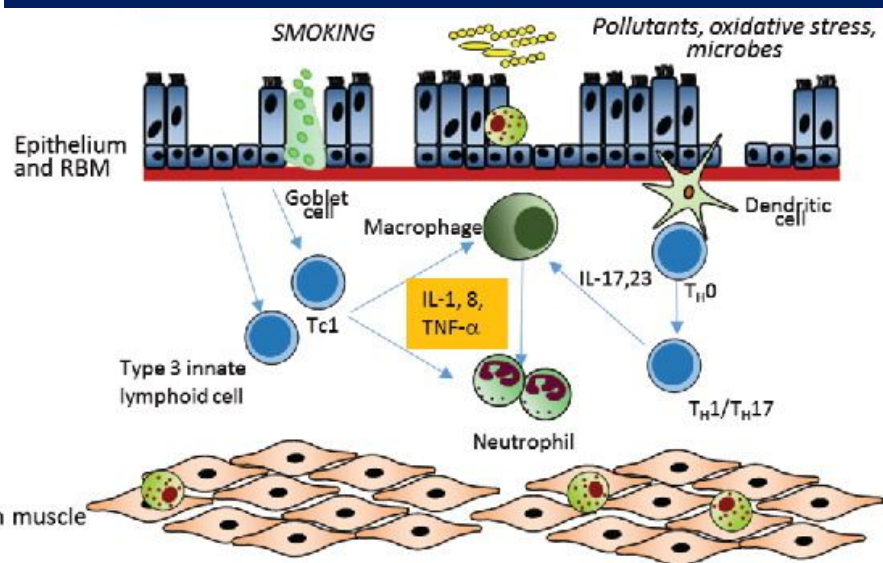
COPD Endotypes

Eosinophil Predominant T2



Present in 20-40% of COPD

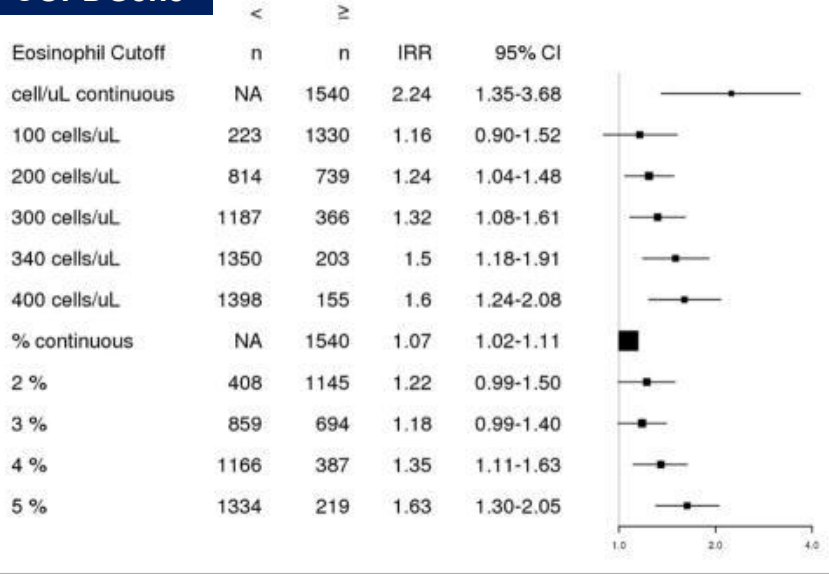
Neutrophil Predominant T1 & T17



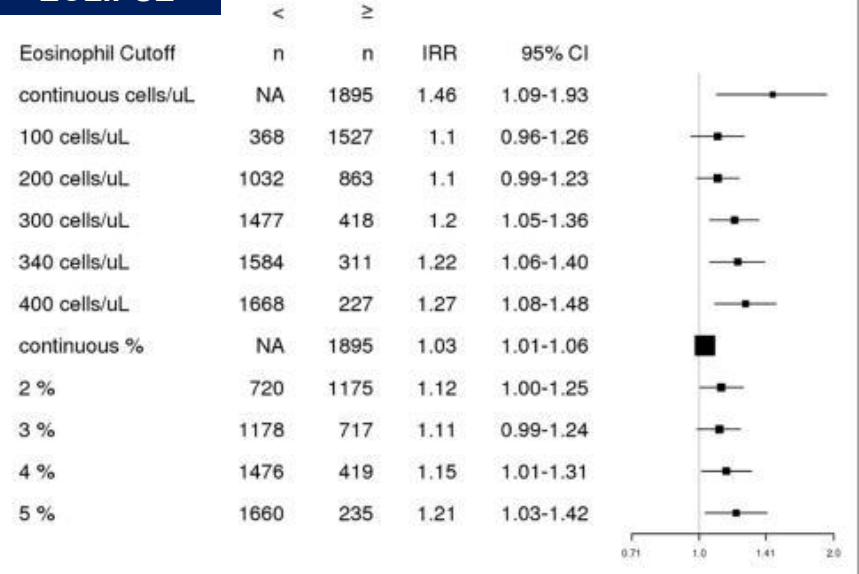
Majority of COPD

Blood Eosinophils and Exacerbations

COPDGene

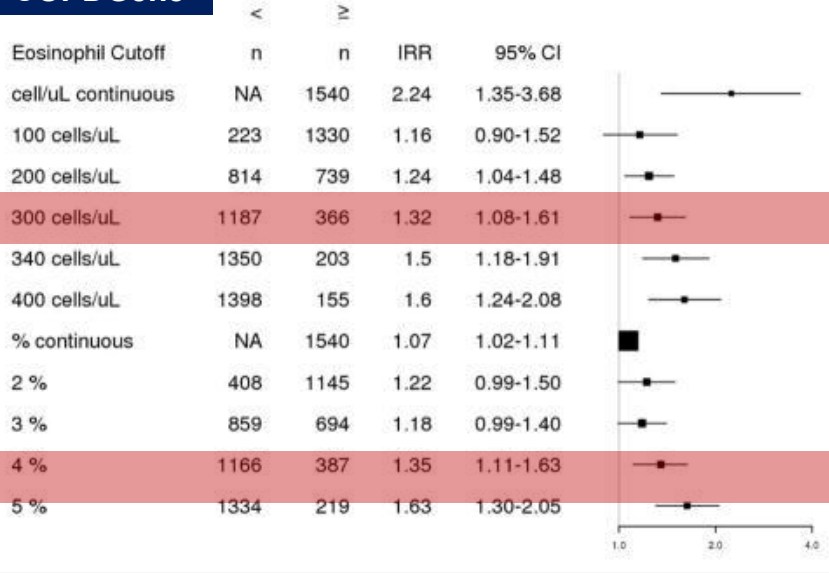


ECLIPSE

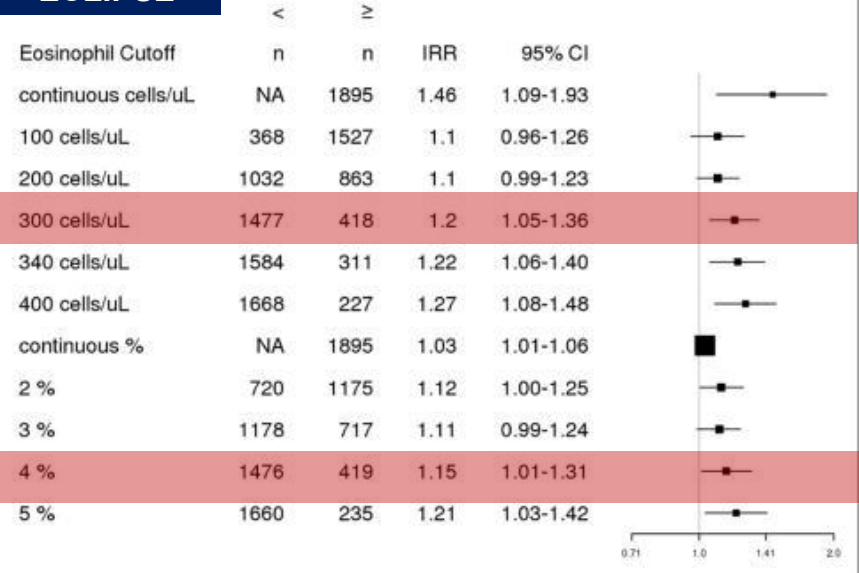


Blood Eosinophils and Exacerbations

COPDGene



ECLIPSE

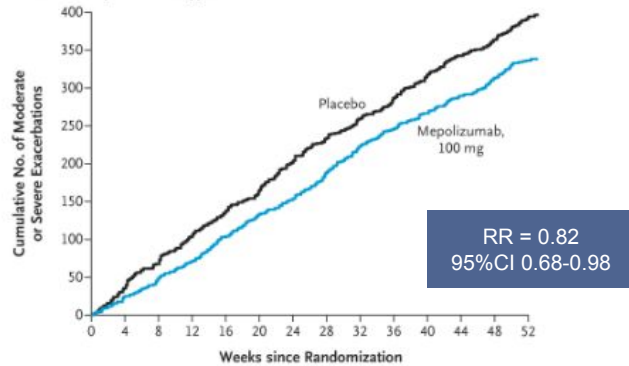


22%-24% population

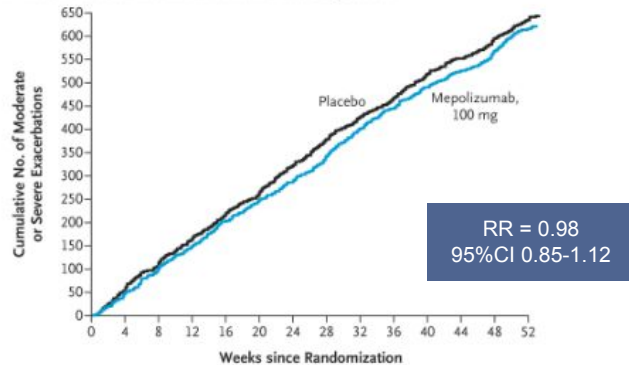
Anti IL-5 Ab: Mepolizumab

Metrex (Stratified by Eos)

A METREX Modified Intention-to-Treat Population with an Eosinophilic Phenotype

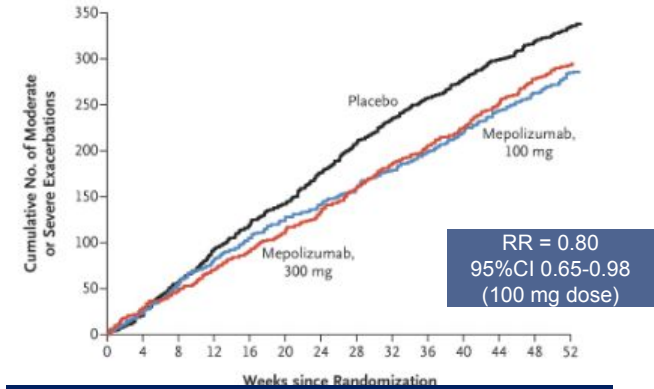


B METREX Overall Modified Intention-to-Treat Population

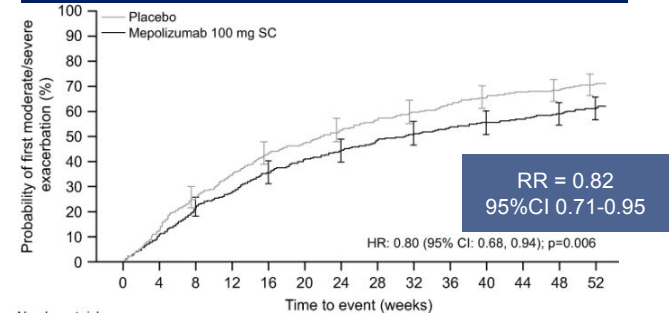


Metreo (All high Eos)

C METREO Modified Intention-to-Treat Population



Pooled Analysis (High Eos)

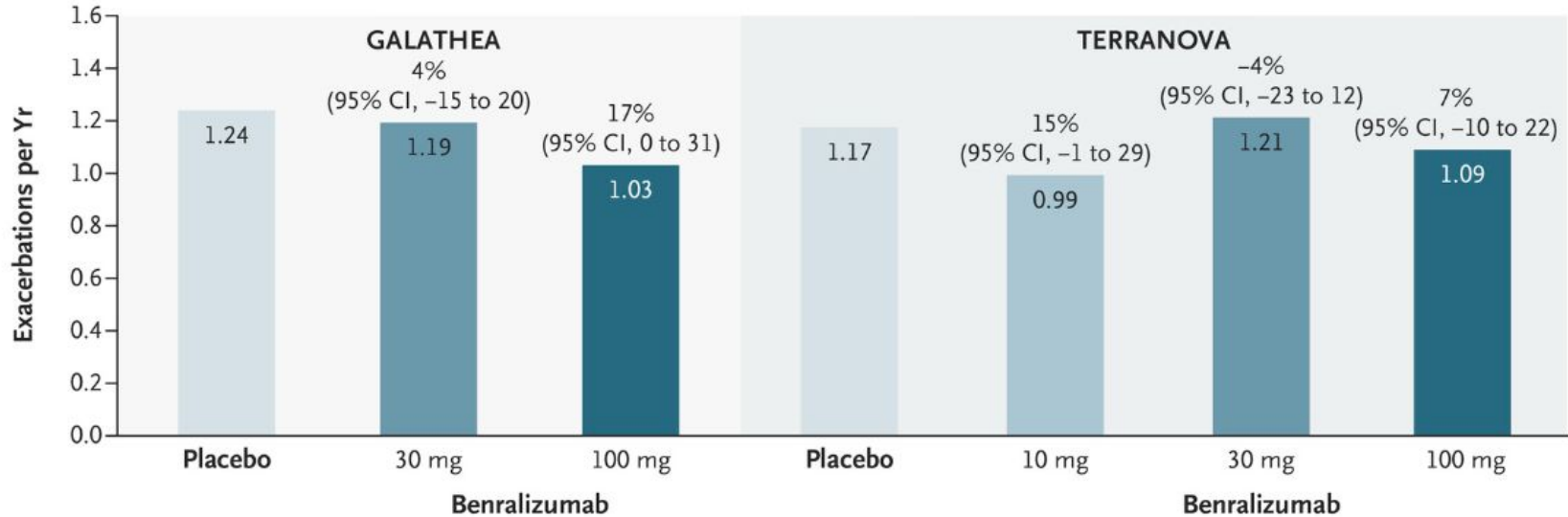


Pavord et al. N Engl J Med. 2017; 377(17):1613-1629

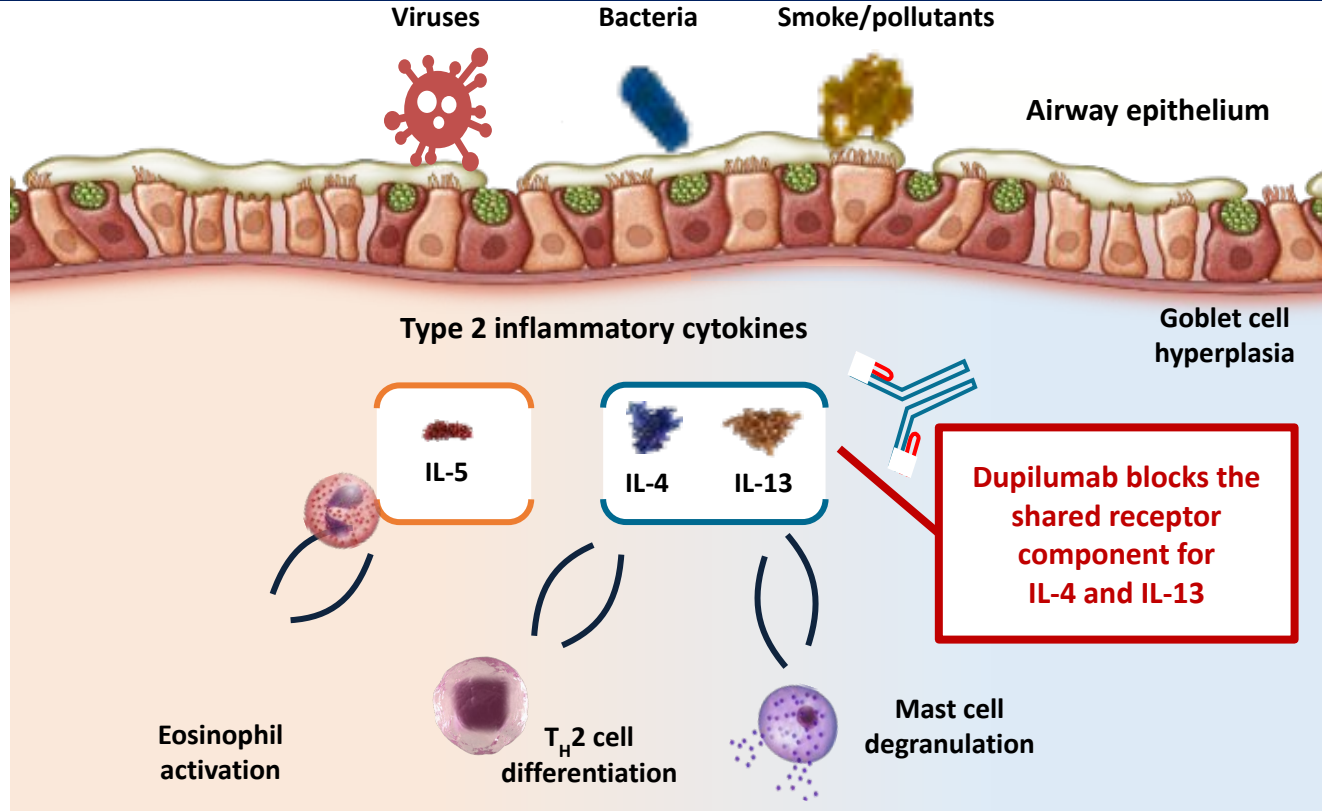
Pavord et al. Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis. 2021; 16:1755-1770

Anti IL-5R: Benralizumab

Moderate or Severe Exacerbations



Dupilumab Mechanism of Action



Boreas: Key Eligibility Criteria

Age
40-80 years

Physician diagnosis of COPD
Current or former smoker
 $FEV_1/FVC < 0.70$
 $FEV_1\%pred > 30\%$ to $\leq 70\%$

High exacerbation risk
 ≥ 2 moderate or ≥ 1 severe
exacerbation in prior 12 months

Blood Eosinophils at
screening ≥ 300 cells/ μ L

At least 1 exacerbation on
ICS+LAMA+LABA

On ICS+LAMA+LABA

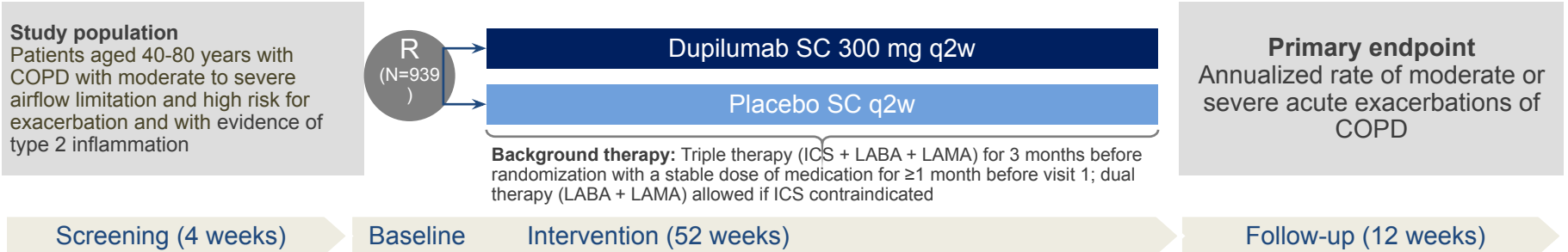
MRC dyspnea ≥ 2

Chronic bronchitis

No past or current
diagnosis of asthma

BOREAS Study Design

BOREAS: Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Placebo-Controlled, Phase 3 Study (NCT03930732)



Efficacy Endpoints

Primary Endpoint

Annualized rate of moderate or severe exacerbations of COPD over the 52-week treatment period

Secondary Endpoints

- Change in pre-BD FEV₁ from baseline to week 12
- Change in pre-BD FEV₁ from baseline to week 52
- Change in pre-BD FEV₁ from baseline to week 12 among patients with a baseline FeNO ≥ 20 ppb
- Change in pre-BD FEV₁ from baseline to week 52 among patients with a baseline FeNO ≥ 20 ppb
- Change in SGRQ total score from baseline to week 52
- SGRQ total score improvement ≥ 4 points at week 52
- Change in E-RS–COPD total score from baseline to week 52
- Annualized rate of moderate or severe exacerbations of COPD among patients with a baseline FeNO ≥ 20 ppb

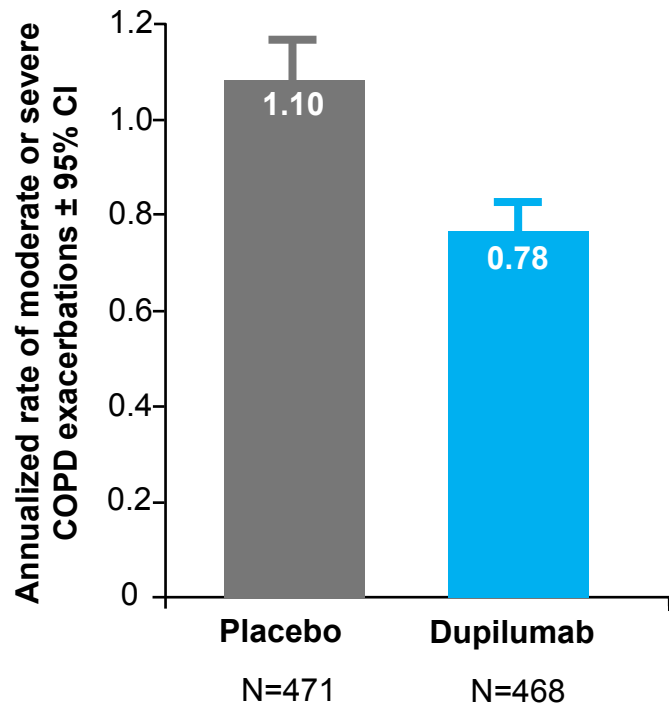
Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	Placebo (N = 471)	Dupilumab (N = 468)	All (N = 939)
Age, mean (SD) — years	65.2 (8.1)	65.0 (8.0)	65.1 (8.1)
Male, no. (%)	322 (68.4)	298 (63.7)	620 (66.0)
Race — White, no. (%)	397 (84.3)	393 (84.0)	790 (84.1)
Ethnicity – Hispanic or Latino, no. (%)	129 (27.4)	132 (28.2)	261 (27.8)
Smoking status			
Former smoker, no. (%)	323 (68.6)	334 (71.4)	657 (70.0)
Current smoker, no. (%)	148 (31.4)	134 (28.6)	282 (30.0)
Pack-years, mean (SD)	41.4 (24.4)	39.6 (22.3)	40.48 (23.4)
BMI, mean (SD) – kg/m ²	27.7 (5.7)	27.5 (5.4)	27.6 (5.6)
Background medication			
Triple therapy (ICS+LAMA+LABA), no. (%)	461 (98.3)	455 (97.4)	916 (97.6)
Inhaled corticosteroid, high dose, no. (%)	126 (26.8)	131 (28.0)	257 (27.4)

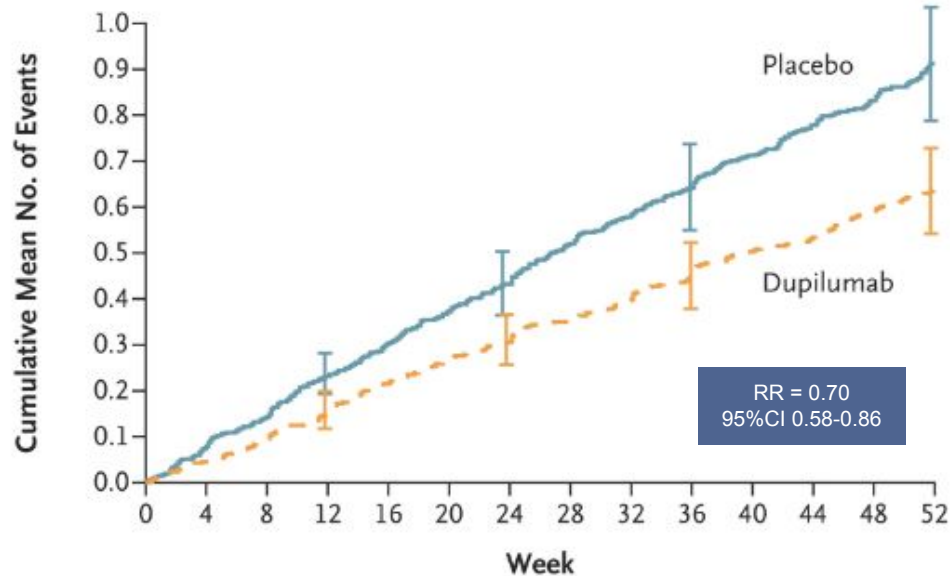
Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	Placebo (N = 471)	Dupilumab (N = 468)	All (N = 939)
Type 2 inflammation biomarkers			
Blood eosinophil count at randomization – cells/ μ L, mean (SD)	408 (331)	394 (261)	401 (298)
Post-BD Fe _{NO} level, ppb, mean (SD)	23.5 (22.0)	25.2 (22.8)	24.3 (22.4)
FE _{NO} level \geq 20 ppb, no. (%)	188 (42.5)	195 (45.0)	383 (43.8)
FE _{NO} level <20 ppb, no. (%)	254 (57.5)	238 (55.0)	492 (56.2)
Moderate-severe COPD exacerbations in 1-year prior, mean (SD)	2.3 (1.0)	2.2 (1.1)	2.30 (1.0)
Lung function			
Post-BD FEV ₁ (L), mean (SD)	1.41 (0.5)	1.39 (0.5)	1.40 (0.5)
Post-BD FEV ₁ % predicted mean (SD)	50.6 (13.0)	50.57 (13.3)	50.60 (13.1)
Post-BD FEV ₁ /FVC, mean (SD)	0.49 (0.11)	0.49 (0.12)	0.49 (0.12)
SGRQ total score, mean (SD)	48.4 (17.8)	48.4 (17.0)	48.4 (17.4)
E-RS: COPD total score, mean (SD)	13.0 (6.9)	12.9 (7.2)	12.9 (7.1)

Primary Outcome: Annualized Rate of Exacerbations



Cumulative Moderate or Severe COPD Exacerbations

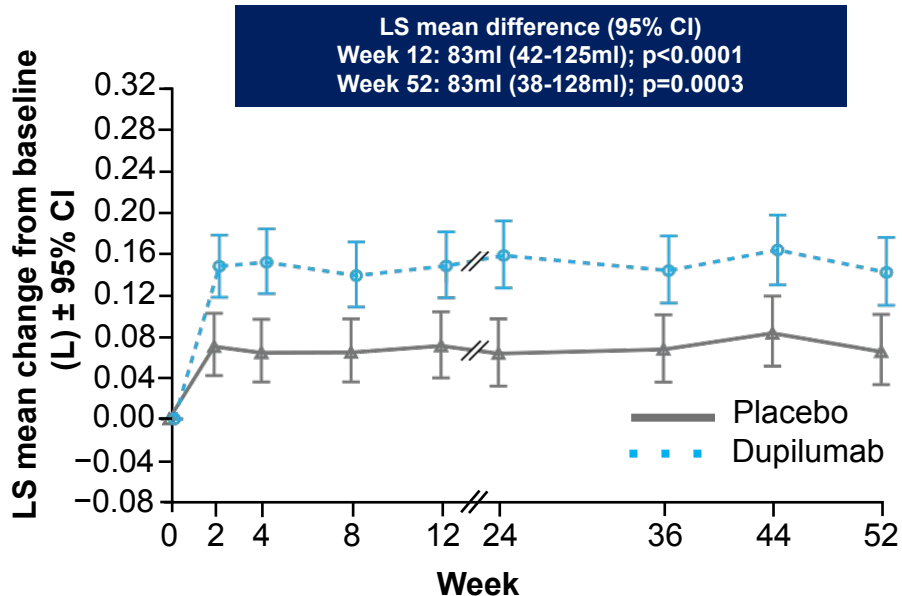


No. at Risk

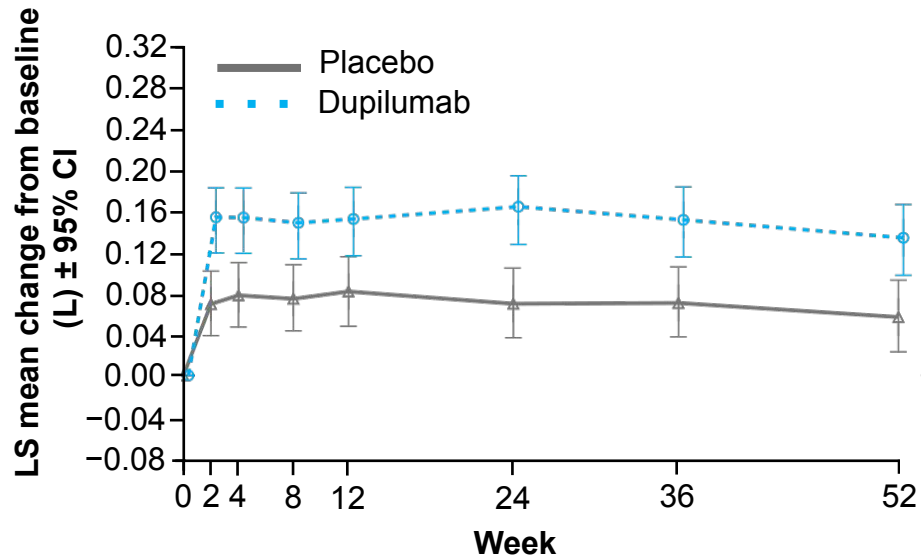
Placebo	471	470	466	461	457	457	456	451	451	449	445	442	441	437
Dupilumab	468	467	465	464	462	460	458	457	456	454	451	450	448	437

Change in Lung Function Over Time

Pre-BD FEV₁



Post-BD FEV₁

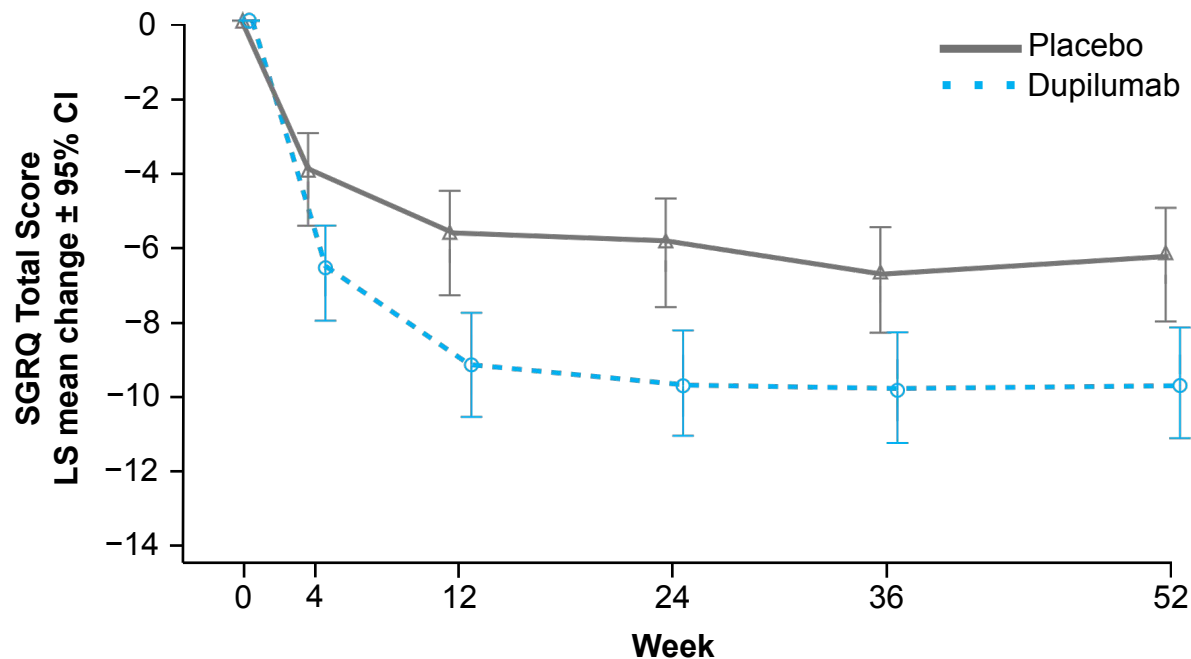


No. of participants with observed change from baseline

Placebo	471	455	459	439	439	435	415	404	420
Dupilumab	467	457	454	446	449	443	415	410	426

471	456	458	439	431	410	417	417
468	457	454	448	436	434	417	423

St. George's Respiratory Questionnaire

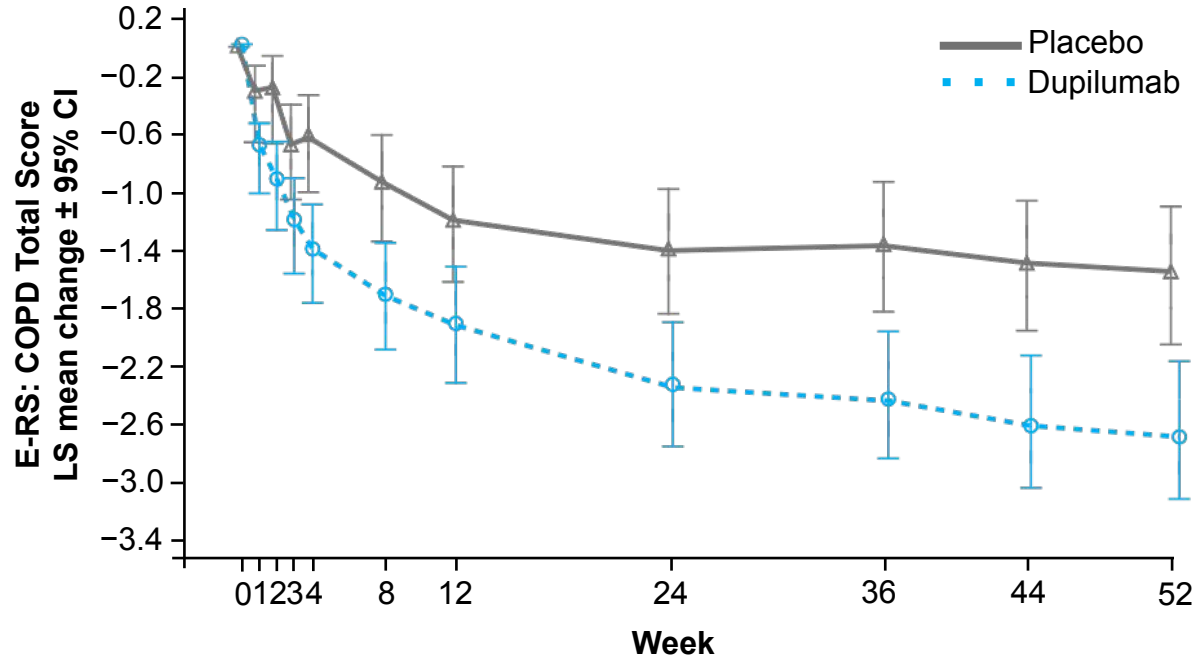


Week 52
LS mean difference (95% CI)
-3.4 (-5.5 to -1.3)
P=0.0017

No. of participants with observed change from baseline

Placebo	461	439	430	407	414	400
Dupilumab	461	444	436	434	407	415

Symptoms (E-RS: COPD)



Week 52
LS mean difference (95% CI)
-1.1 (-1.8 to -0.5)
P=0.0012

No. of participants with observed change from baseline

Placebo	467	454	448	443	424	414	404	379
Dupilumab	461	446	435	439	428	412	403	380

Important Subgroups

	Exacerbations	Δ FEV ₁ (ml)
Active smokers	0.75 (95%CI 0.52-1.07)	57 (95%CI -6 to 120)
FeNO \geq 20 ppb	0.63 (96%CI 0.45-0.87)	124 (95% CI, 45 to 203)
Age \geq 65 years	0.74 (95%CI 0.57-0.95)	63 (95%CI 15-110)
High dose ICS	0.72 (95%CI 0.51-1.01)	104 (95%CI 1-207)
FEV ₁ <50% predicted	0.71 (95%CI 0.55-0.92)	94 (95%CI 27-161)
Eos \geq 500 cells/ μ L	0.51 (95%CI 0.35-0.74)	142 (95%CI 60-223)

Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in the Safety Population

	Placebo (N = 470)	Dupilumab (N = 469)
Most common TEAEs (≥ 5%), no. (%)		
Nasopharyngitis	45 (9.6)	44 (9.4)
Headache	32 (6.8)	38 (8.1)
Upper respiratory tract infection	46 (9.8)	37 (7.9)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	28 (6.0)	27 (5.8)
Diarrhea	17 (3.6)	25 (5.3)
Back pain	16 (3.4)	24 (5.1)
COVID-19	27 (5.7)	19 (4.1)
Hypertension	28 (6.0)	17 (3.6)

Conclusions

- Dupilumab reduced the annualized rate of moderate-to-severe exacerbations by 30% compared to placebo
- Dupilumab improved patient reported lung function and patient reported outcomes:
 - 83 mL improvement in FEV₁
 - Significant improvement in quality of life
 - Significant improvement in severity of symptoms
- Safety results were consistent with the known safety profile of dupilumab

Discussion

	MACRO	REACT	PANTHEON	BOREAS
Intervention	Azithromycin	Roflumilast	N-acetyl cysteine	Dupilumab
Key inclusion criteria	FEV ₁ <50% pred 10 pack-years	CB FEV ₁ <50% pred 20 pack-years	Non-smokers also included	Type 2 inflammation 10-pack-years
Background therapy	49% triple therapy 10% on no controller therapy	70% triple therapy	ICS/LABA 47% 26% on no controller therapy	97% triple therapy
Exacerbation risk	1 exacerbation or on O2 therapy	2 exacerbations	2 exacerbations	2 moderate or 1 severe exacerbation
Chronic bronchitis	60% (this group had less benefit)	100%	-	100%
Asthma	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Efficacy	HR 0.73 (95%CI 0.63-0.84) IRR 0.83 (95% CI 0.72-0.95)	IRR 0.86 (95%CI 0.74-0.99) ▼ Severe exacerbations	IRR 0.78 (95%CI 0.67-0.90)	IRR 0.70 (95%CI 0.58-0.86)
Safety	Hearing impairment QTc prolongation excluded	Diarrhea Weight loss	Safe	Safe



Q&A

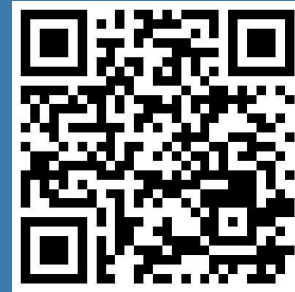


Robert A. Wise, MD
Johns Hopkins University

Attendees:

Add questions or your feedback on today's roundtable in the chat.

Become a Community Partner: Complete a brief form to nominate yourself or a colleague to learn more, or point your phone camera at the QR code.





Commentary



Stephen Rennard, MD
University of Nebraska



Richard Albert, MD
University of Colorado

Attendees:

Add questions, feedback on today's roundtable, or topic requests for the next roundtable in the chat.



Thank you!