

Anifrolumab shows long-term promise in patients with lupus

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Type I interferon (IFN) is a powerful immune activator that is present at high levels in the majority of patients with lupus, an autoimmune disease. In *Arthritis & Rheumatology*, researchers report positive results

from the first placebo-controlled long-term trial of anifrolumab—a human monoclonal antibody that targets the type I IFN receptor—in patients with lupus.

In the long-term extension trial of two earlier phase 3 trials, patients continued anifrolumab 300 mg, switched from anifrolumab 150 mg to 300 mg, or were re-randomized from placebo to either anifrolumab 300 mg or continued placebo, administered every 4 weeks, with all patients also receiving standard therapy. Anifrolumab was administered as an intravenous infusion.

Treatment with anifrolumab was well tolerated and had an acceptable long-term safety profile, while sustaining reduction in [lupus](#) disease activity and reducing or eliminating the need for steroid medications.

"Managing [systemic lupus erythematosus](#) is challenging, due to the complexity of the disease itself, as well as from treatments like oral corticosteroids that can reduce disease activity, but also place a significant burden on patients when used in high doses long-term," said corresponding author Hussein Al-Mossawi, MD, Ph.D., of AstraZeneca.

"These new data from the TULIP extension trial—the longest placebo-controlled clinical trial performed in lupus to date—support the benefit-risk profile of anifrolumab seen in previous trials, now over four years."

More information: Hussein Al-Mossawi, A Randomized, Placebo-controlled Phase 3 Extension Trial of the Long-term Safety & Tolerability of Anifrolumab in Active Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, *Arthritis & Rheumatology* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/art.42392](https://doi.org/10.1002/art.42392)

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