

Nemolizumab improves symptoms in prurigo nodularis: Clinical trial

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For patients with moderate-to-severe prurigo nodularis, nemolizumab

improves symptoms, according to a study published in the Oct. 26 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Shawn G. Kwatra, M.D., from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues conducted a [phase 3](#), double-blind, randomized trial involving adults with moderate-to-severe prurigo nodularis. Participants were assigned to receive an initial 60-mg dose of nemolizumab followed by subcutaneous injections of 30 or 60 mg every four weeks for 16 weeks or matching placebo (183 and 91 [patients](#), respectively).

The researchers found that at week 16, treatment efficacy was shown with respect to both primary end points (itch response and Investigator's Global Assessment [IGA] response); a greater proportion of patients in the nemolizumab group than in the [placebo group](#) had an itch response (56.3 versus 20.9%) and an IGA response (score of 0 [clear] or 1 [almost clear]; 37.7 versus 11.0%). For the five key secondary end points, benefits were also observed: itch response at week 4, Peak Pruritus Numerical Rating Scale score of less than 2 at weeks four and 16, and improvement of 4 or more points on the sleep disturbance numerical rating scale at weeks four and 16.

"The results of this trial extend the efficacy and safety findings of nemolizumab from the phase 2 study in patients with prurigo nodularis," the authors write.

More information: Shawn G. Kwatra et al, Phase 3 Trial of Nemolizumab in Patients with Prurigo Nodularis, *New England Journal of Medicine* (2023). [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2301333](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2301333)

Martin Metz, Targeting Interleukin-31 in Prurigo, *New England Journal of Medicine* (2023). [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMe2307584](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMe2307584)

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