
A Reply to “Efficacy and Safety of Nemolizumab for Treatment of Adult Atopic Dermatitis”

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To the Editor:

Firstly, we would like to thank Freemantle and Piketty [1] for their kind letter and constructive comments concerning our article “Efficacy and Safety of Nemolizumab for Treatment of Adult Atopic Dermatitis” [2], which were very valuable and helpful and significantly guided our research. We have studied the comments carefully and now provide an explanation of our findings and respond to the readers’ questions.

After our meta-analysis, we concluded that 60 mg Q4w is likely to be optimal for the treatment of patients with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis. However, the evaluation of the optimal therapeutic method should consider both drug efficacy and drug safety. Therefore, the method used to analyze the data is based not only on the Eczema Area and Severity Index of the studies, but also on adverse events and severe adverse events. As shown in Supplementary Figure 4, we found that the adverse event rate for 60 mg Q4w was lower than that of 30 mg Q4w (RR [95%CI], 1.00 [0.83-1.20]) vs 1.07 [0.89-1.30]); compared with the 60-mg Q4w group, the severe adverse event rate for the 30-mg Q4w group was significantly higher (0.76 [0.13-4.42]) vs 1.13 [0.70,1.81]) [1]. Moreover, the cause of the heterogeneity indicated by the Galbraith radial plot should also be considered in our evaluation. As shown in Supplementary Figure 3, 60 mg Q4w is closer to the middle line than 30 mg Q4w, indicating that the heterogeneity of the effect in the 60-mg Q4w group is less than in the 30-mg Q4w group [1].

With the above combination, we reached a slightly different conclusion. This may have been due to the wordcount limitation, which prevented us from providing a more detailed explanation. Meanwhile, the increase in the number of phase 3 clinical trials being performed will enable us to update our results, and conclusions may change. Finally, we are grateful to our readers for their positive comments and valuable suggestions, which have helped to improve the quality of our article.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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