Clean-Up on IL-23

Integrating the Science of Inflammatory Targets into Treatment Decision-Making in IBD

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Learning Objectives

Assess the role of various pro-inflammatory cytokines to inflammation in the pathogenesis of IBD.

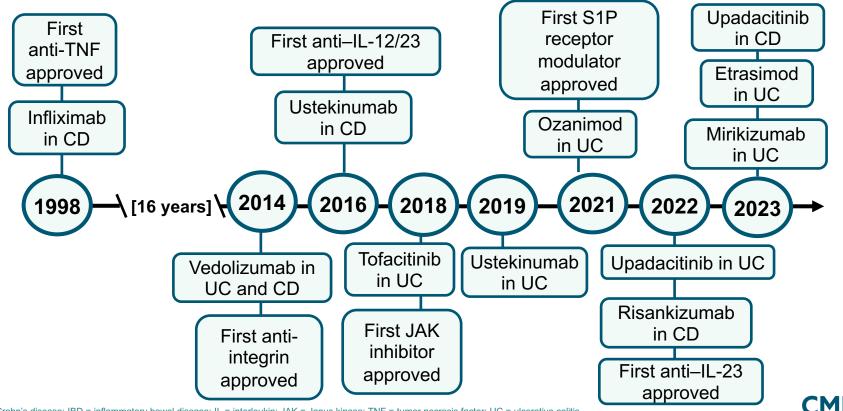


Classify the role of the IL-23 and Th17 pathway in IBD pathogenesis.



Evaluate the potential clinical implications of CD64 receptor binding by anti-IL-23 mAbs in the treatment of IBD.

Evolution of IBD Treatment Landscape



CD = Crohn's disease; IBD = inflammatory bowel disease; IL = interleukin; JAK = Janus kinase; TNF = tumor necrosis factor; UC = ulcerative colitis. Modified from Pouillon L, et al. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2021;18(2):143. OMVOH® (mirikizumab-mrkz) [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/761279s000lbl.pdf

How Do We Put Together the Puzzle of Therapy Selection?

DRUG

Efficacy

Indication Rapidity of onset Durability Pharmacokinetics/TDM Combination vs. monotherapy Positioning and sequence

Safety

Infection Cancer Specific concerns by agent or mechanism



PATIENT

Individual Characteristics

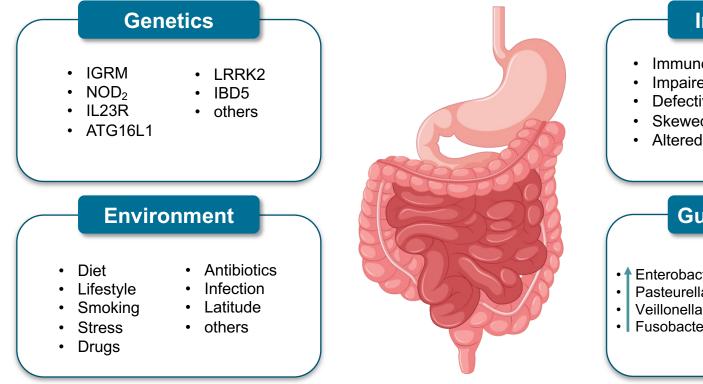
Age Stages of disease Comorbidities and other inflammatory conditions Preferences Access to treatment

Disease Characteristics

CD vs. UC Disease behavior/complication Disease severity Early vs. late EIMs Treatment history



IBD Pathogenesis



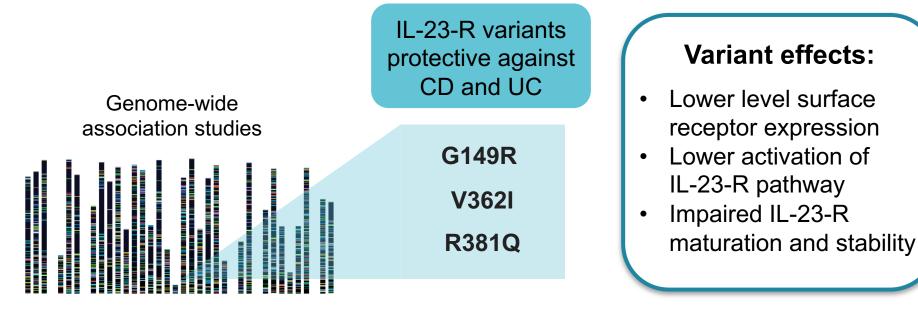
Immunology

- Immune dysregulation
- Impaired epithelial barrier function
- Defective autophagy
- Skewed lymphocyte populations
- Altered cytokine production

Gut Microbiome

- + Enterobacteriaceae
- Pasteurellaceae
- Veillonellaceae
- Erysipelotrichales
- **Bacterioidales** ٠
- Clostridiodales
- Fusobacteriaceae

Genetic Link to IL-23 and IBD





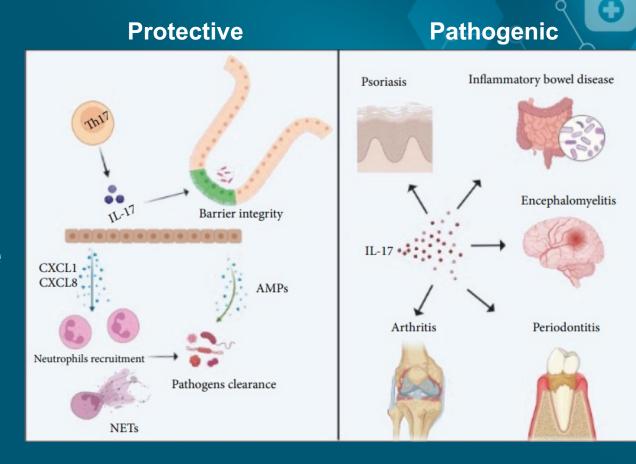
R = receptor. El Hadad, et al. *Mol Diagn Ther*. 2024;28(1):27-35. Sivanesan D, et al. *J Biol Chem*. 2016;291(16):8673-8685.

Why Target IL-23 in IBD?

- Inhibition of IL-23 decreases mucosal inflammation and improves epithelial barrier integrity
- Inhibiting IL-23 suppresses gut inflammation in T-cell mediated colitis
- Anti-IL-23 therapy preserves protective IL-17 gut functions
 - Animal models of IL-17 blockade in colitis had mixed results
 - Trials of anti-IL-17A/IL-17A receptor antagonists in IBD resulted in worse outcomes vs placebo

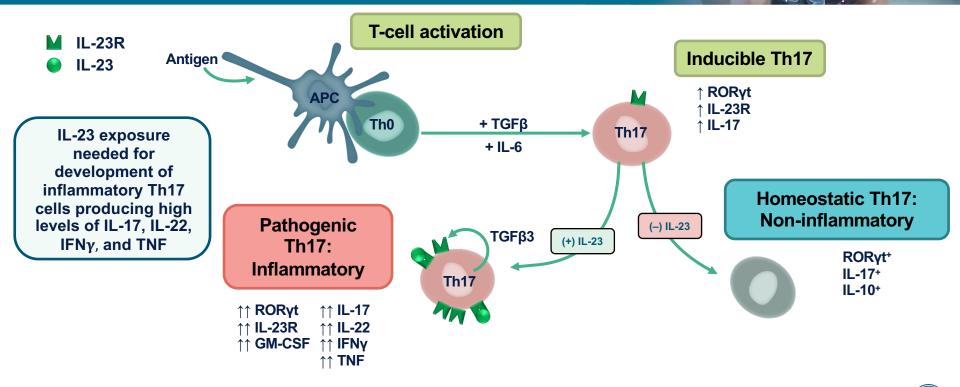


Role of IL-17 in Pathogenic and Protective Immunity



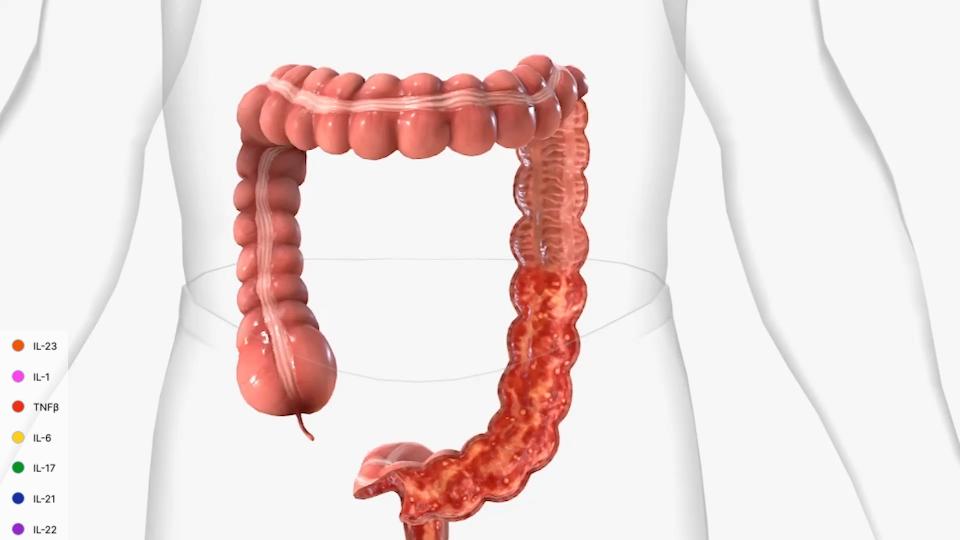
AMPs = antimicrobial peptides; NETs = neutrophil extracellular traps; Th = T helper cell. Sun L, et al. *J Immunol Res.* 2023;2023:1-9.

IL-23 Drives Development of Inflammator Pathogenic Th17 Cells

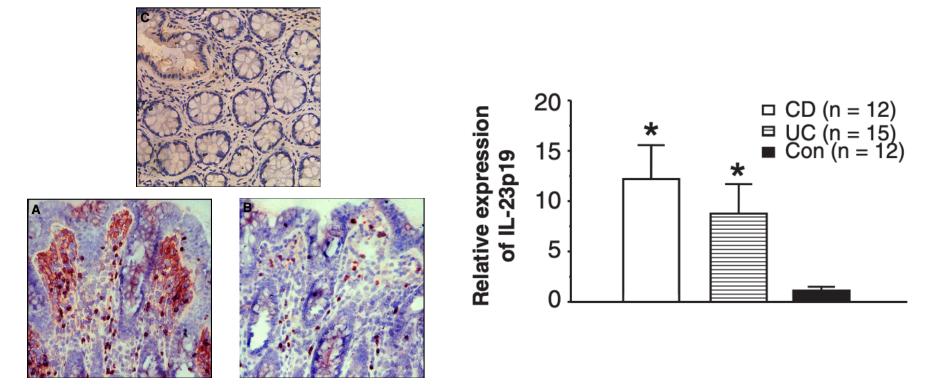


APC = antigen-presenting cell; GM-CSF = granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor; IFN = interferon; RORyt = retinoic acid receptor-related orphan receptor yt; TGF = transforming growth factor.

Adapted from Zúñiga LA, et al. Immunol Rev. 2013;252(1):78-88. Gaffen SL, et al. Nat Rev Immunol. 2014;14(9):585-600. Schmitt H, et al. Front Immunol. 2021;12:622934.

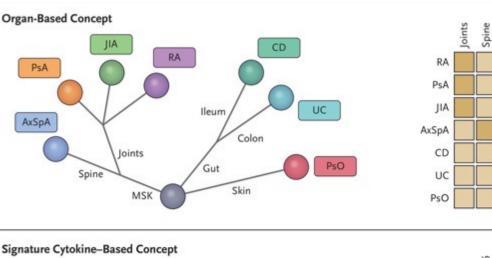


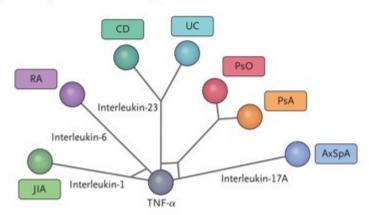
IL-23 Expression in Patients with IBD

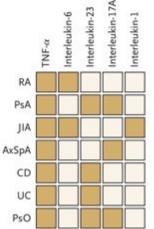




Cytokine Connections in Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases







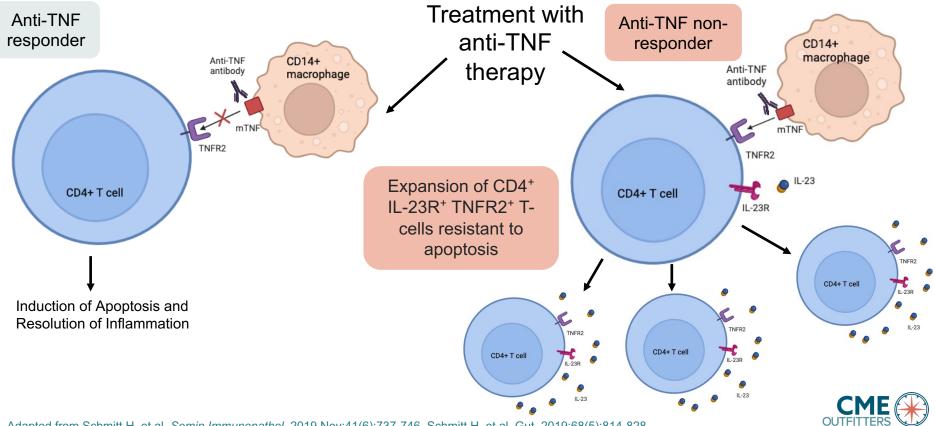
CME OUTFITTERS 🛞

Colon

Skin

G Schett, et al. N Engl J Med. 2021;385:628-639.

IL-23 Mediated Resistance to Anti-TN



Adapted from Schmitt H, et al. Semin Immunopathol. 2019 Nov;41(6):737-746. Schmitt H, et al. Gut. 2019;68(5):814-828.

Audience Response

Which of the following is a potential cause of anti-TNF non-response in patients with IBD?

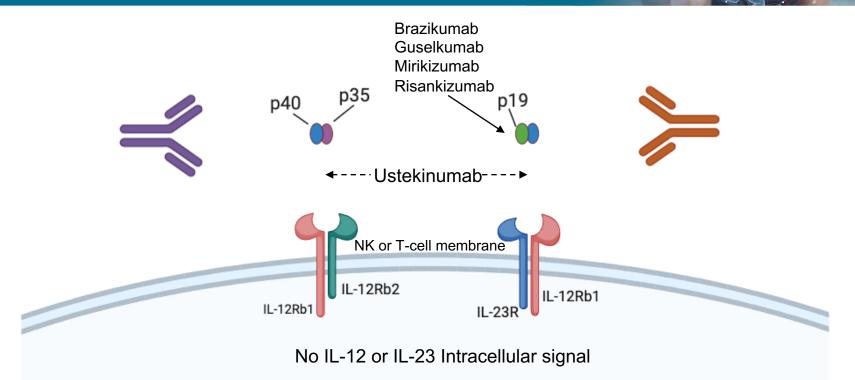
- A. Drug interactions between anti-TNF agents and immunomodulators
- B. Heightened production of IL-23 and development of apoptosis resistant T-cells
- C. Down regulation of TNF-α receptors on monocytes
- D. I don't know



Inhibition of IL-23 in IBD: What do we know so far?



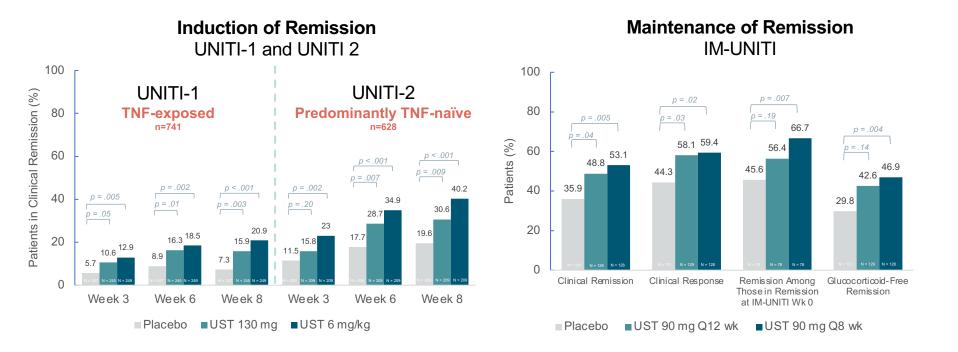
Anti-p40 (IL-12/23) and Anti-p19 (IL-23)



Adapted from Gately MK, et al. *Annu Rev Immunol*. 1998;16:495-521. Wilson NJ, et al. *Nat Immunol*. 2007;8(9):950-957. Nickoloff BJ, et al. *J Clin Invest*. 2004;113(12):1664-1675. Nestle FO, et al. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2004;123(6):xiv-xv. Created with Biorender.



UNITI: Ustekinumab for Induction and Maintenance of Remission in Refractory CD





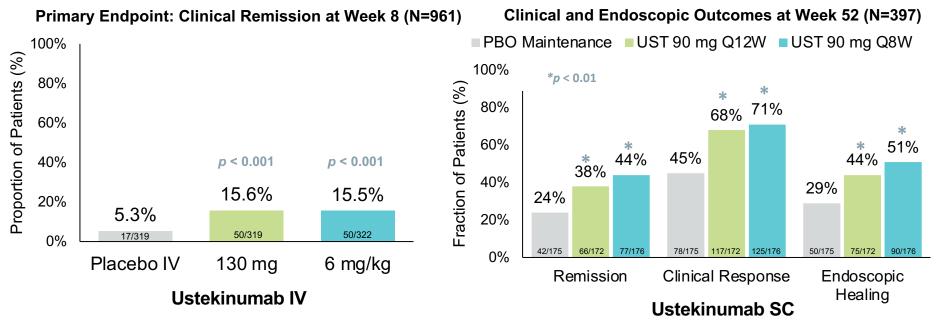
UST = ustekinumab.

Feagan BG, et al. N Engl J Med. 2016;375(20):1946-1960. Sandborn W, et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2018;48(1):65-77.

UNIFI: Ustekinumab for Induction and Maintenance in Moderate-Severe UC

Induction¹

Maintenance²



IV = intravenous; SC = subcutaneous.

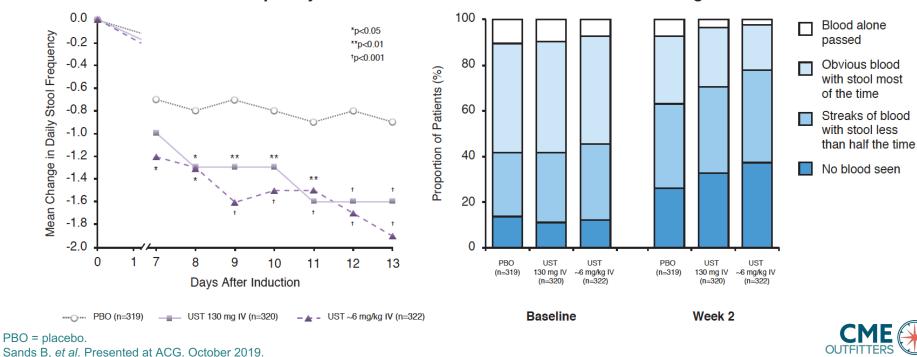
Clinical Remission = Mayo Score ≤ 2 with no individual subscore > 1; Endoscopic healing: Mayo endoscopic subscore 0 or 1.

1. Sands BE, et al. N Engl J Med 2019;381:1201-14. 2. Sandborn WJ, et al. Presented at ECCO 2019. OP37.

UNIFI Induction Trial: Early Improvement after Ustekinumab Induction in Patients with UC

Improvements in Stool Frequency and Rectal Bleeding after UST IV Induction

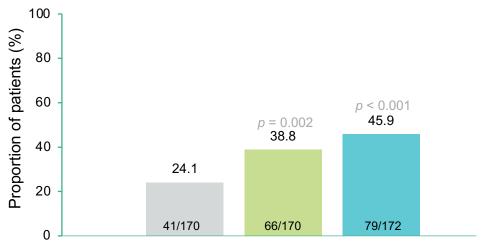
Rectal Bleeding Scores



Stool Frequency

UNIFI Maintenance: Histo-Endoscopic Mucosa Healing Through Maintenance Week 44

Significantly more patients experienced histo-endoscopic mucosal healing through 1 year* with UST vs. PBO^{1,2}



■ PBO SC ■ UST SC 90 mg q12w ■ UST SC 90 mg q8w

*Week 44 in maintenance is 1 full year of UST treatment (8-week induction + 44-week maintenance = 52 weeks in total); †The PBO population includes patients who received and responded to UST IV induction before receiving PBO SC. The maintenance PBO is therefore not a true PBO as these patients have already received UST IV at induction. The UNIFI trial is the first trial to use histo-endoscopic mucosal healing as an endpoint

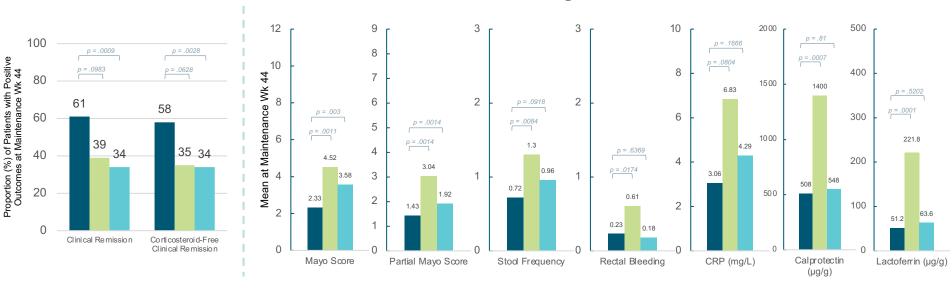
This endpoint includes:

- Endoscopic improvement (endoscopy subscore of 0 or 1) AND
- Histological improvement (0% to <5% neutrophils in epithelium, no crypt destruction, and no erosions, ulcerations or granulations)³



1. Sandborn WJ, et al. Presented at ECCO 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark. 2. Sands BE, et al. N Engl J Med 2019;381:1201-14. 3. Li K, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2020;159(6):2052-2064.

Achieving Histo-Endoscopic Mucosal Healing is Superio to Either Histologic or Endoscopic Improvement Alone



Data from the UNIFI Program

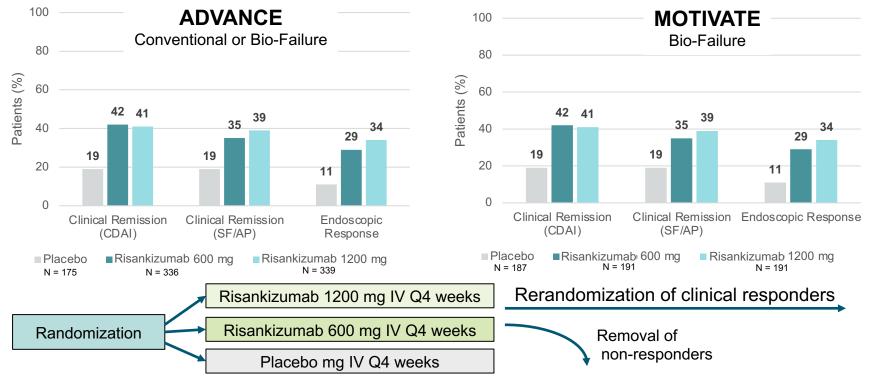
With histo-endoscopic mucosal healing at end of induction (N = 92)

With only endoscopic improvement at end of induction (N = 23)

With only histologic improvement at end of induction (N = 71)

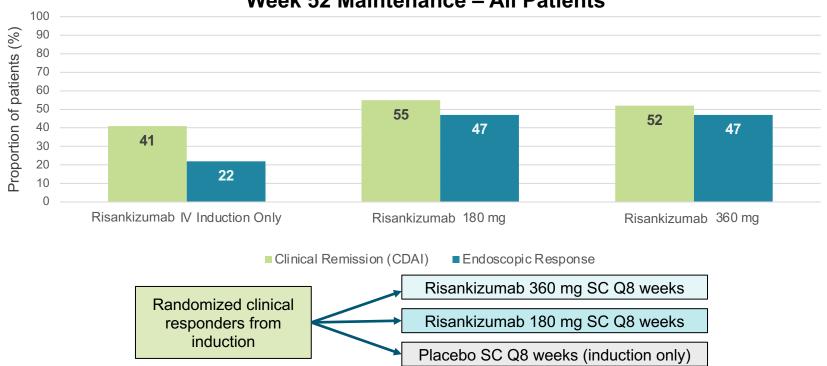


ADVANCE and MOTIVATE: Risankizumab Induction in CD



CDAI =Crohn's disease activity index; SF/AP = stool frequency/abdominal pain.; *Clinical responders defined as \geq 30% decrease in average daily stool frequency or APS and not worse than baseline; *Endoscopic response defined as \geq 50% decline in SES-CD vs BL by central reviewer (or in pts with SES-CD of 4 at BL, \geq 2-point decrease vs BL); CDAI clinical remission a CDAI < 150. D'Haens G, et al. *Lancet.* 2022;399(10340):2015-2030. Ferrante M, et al. *Lancet.* 2022;399(10340):2031-2046.

FORTIFY: Risankizumab Maintenance in



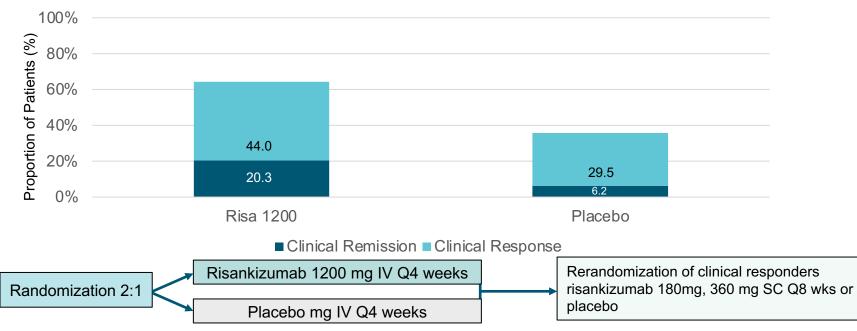
Week 52 Maintenance – All Patients

Endoscopic response defined as >50% decline in SES-CD vs BL by central reviewer (or in pts with SES-CD of 4 at BL, ≥2-point decrease vs BL); CDAI clinical remission a CDAI < 150. Ferrante M, et al. Lancet. 2022;399(10340):2031-2046.



INSPIRE: Risankizumab Induction in

Clinical Response and Remission at 12 Weeks



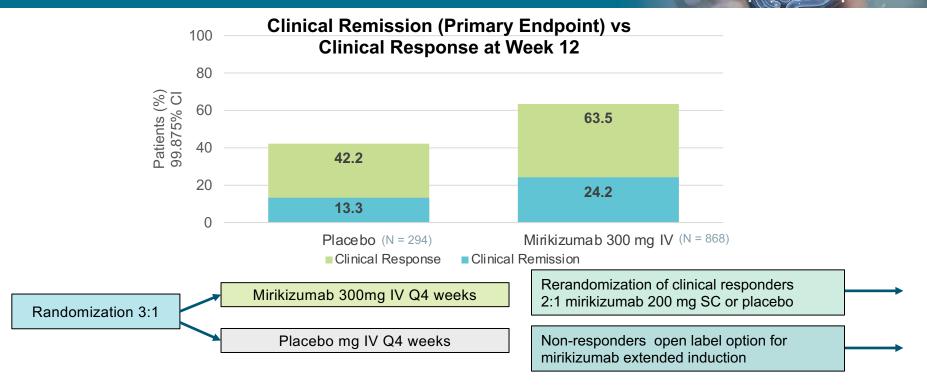
*Risankizumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of UC.

*Clinical responders defined as ≥30% decrease in average daily stool frequency or APS and not worse than baseline; *Endoscopic response defined as >50% decline in SES-CD vs BL by central reviewer (or in pts with SES-CD of 4 at BL, ≥2-point decrease vs BL); CDAI clinical remission a CDAI < 150.



Louis E, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2023;118(10S):S624-S625.

LUCENT-1: Mirikizumab Induction in

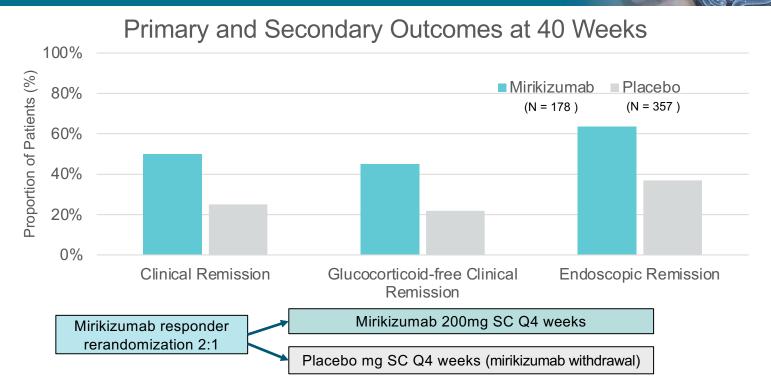


Clinical Remission: Stool frequency (SF) = 0, or SF = 1 with a \geq 1-point decrease from baseline; rectal bleeding (RB) = 0; endoscopic subscore (ES) = 0 or 1 (excluding friability); clinical response: MMS of \geq 2 points and \geq 30% decrease from baseline, and a decrease of \geq 1 point in the RB subscore from baseline or a RB score of 0 or 1



D'Haens G, et al. N Engl J Med. 2023;388(26):2444-2455

LUCENT-2: Mirikizumab Maintenance in U

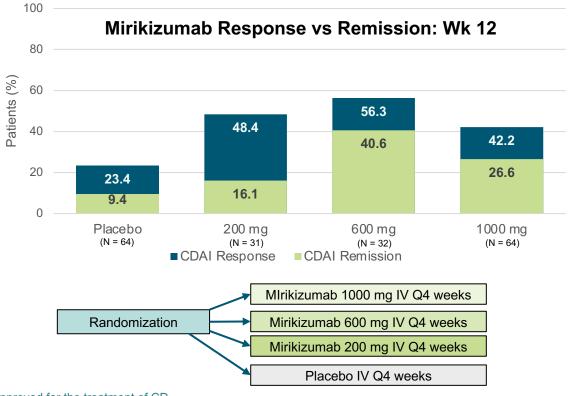


Clinical Remission: Stool frequency (SF) = 0, or SF = 1 with a \geq 1-point decrease from baseline; rectal bleeding (RB) = 0; endoscopic subscore (ES) = 0 or 1 (excluding friability), Endoscopic Remission: ES = 0 or 1 (excluding friability), clinical remission at week 40, remission of symptoms at week 28, and no glucocorticoid use for \geq 12 weeks before week 40



D'Haens G, et al. N Engl J Med. 2023;388:2444-2455.

SERENITY: Mirikizumab* Induction in C

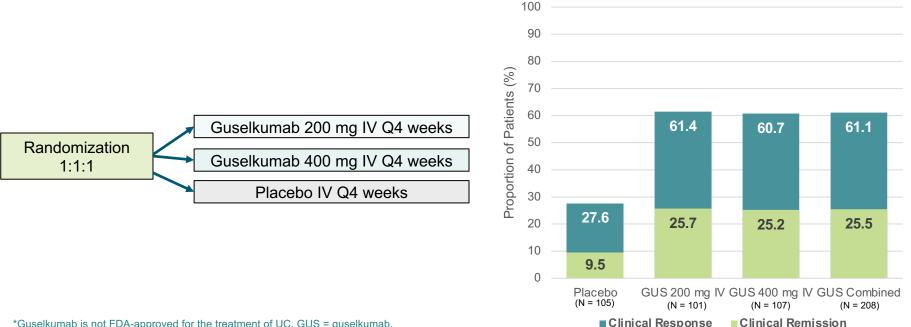


*Mirikizumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of CD. CDAI response = decrease from baseline of ≥ 100 points or score < 150; CDAI remission = score < 150. Sands BE, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2022;162(2):495-508.



QUASAR: Guselkumab Induction in





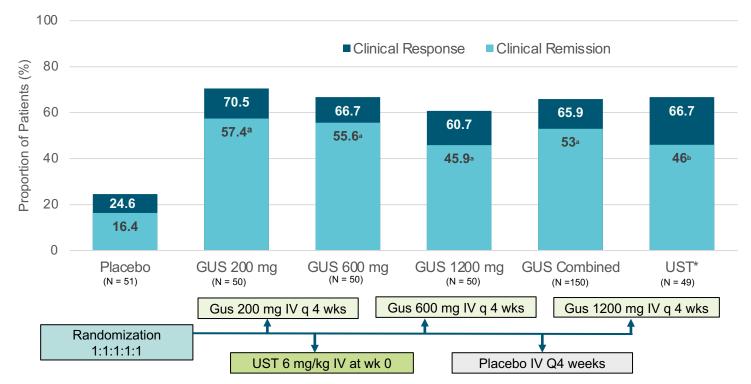
*Guselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of UC. GUS = guselkumab.

Clinical response = modified Mayo score decrease \geq 30% and \geq 2 points, rectal bleeding subscore \geq 1-point decrease or subscore of 0/1;

Clinical remission = Mayo stool frequency subscore of 0 or 1 and not increased from induction baseline, a Mayo rectal bleeding subscore of 0, and a Mayo endoscopy subscore of 0 or 1 with no friability present on the endoscopy

Peyrin-Biroulet L, et al. Gastroenterology 2023;165(6):1443-1457.

GALAXI-1: Guselkumab Induction in CD

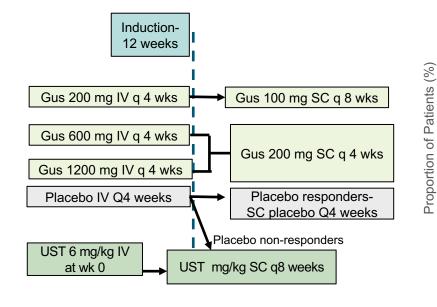


 $^{A}p = <0.001$ b p = 0.001; *UST approx. 6 mg/kg IV \Rightarrow 90 mg SC. Clinical Response = 100-point reduction from baseline CDAI score or CDAI < 150; Clinical Remission = CDAI < 150 **Guselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of CD.

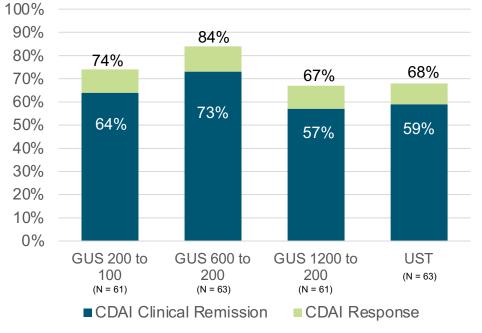


Sandborn W. et al. Gastroenterology. 2022;162(6):1650-1664.e8.

GALAXI-1: Guselkumab* Maintenance in CD



CDAI Response and Remission at week 48



*Guselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of CD. Clinical Response = 100-point reduction from baseline CDAI score or CDAI < 150; Clinical Remission = CDAI < 150 Danese S, et al. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2024;9(2):133-146.



How will we differentiate between IL-23 targeting agents?



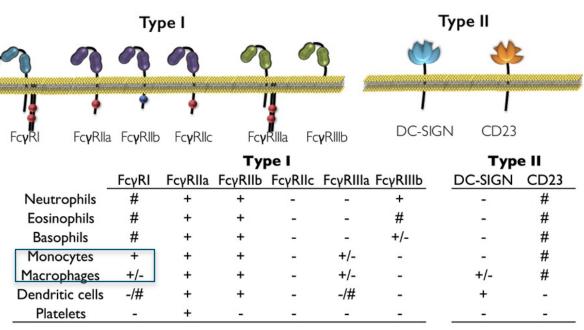
Which of the following was found in the MODIF-Y study when comparing binding affinity of guselkumab and risankizumab to CD64 receptors?

- A. Binding of both guselkumab and risankizumab to CD64
- B. Binding of guselkumab only to CD64
- C. Binding of risankizumab only to CD64
- D. I don't know



What are Fcy receptors and CD64 receptors

- Fcγ receptors: surface receptors on immune cells that recognize the Fc portion of IgG
- CD64 (FcyRI) is the only Fcγ receptor with high affinity for IgG1

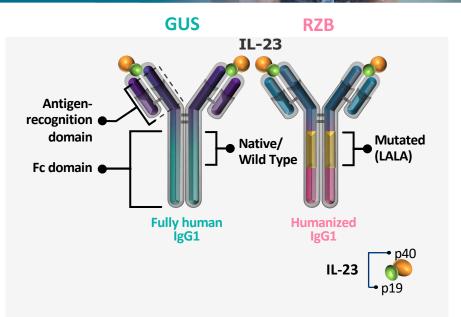


- + Constitutive expression
- No expression
- # Inducible expression



Clinically Relevant Differences Between Anti-IL-23 Therapeutic Antibodies May Be Related to Their Unique Molecular Attributes

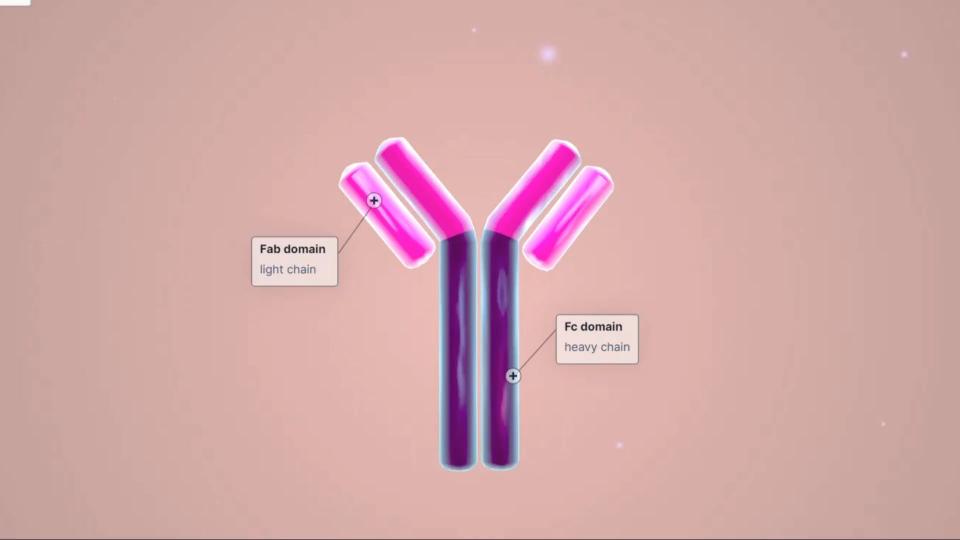
- ► Guselkumab (GUS) and risankizumab (RZB) are mAbs that selectively target the p19 subunit of IL-23^{1,2}
- ► GUS and RZB have shown efficacy in the treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases^{3-6*}
- Potential differences in the therapeutic profiles may be related to their unique molecular attributes⁷⁻⁹
- ► GUS and RZB have differences in the Fc region that affect binding to Fc-gamma receptors^{1,2}



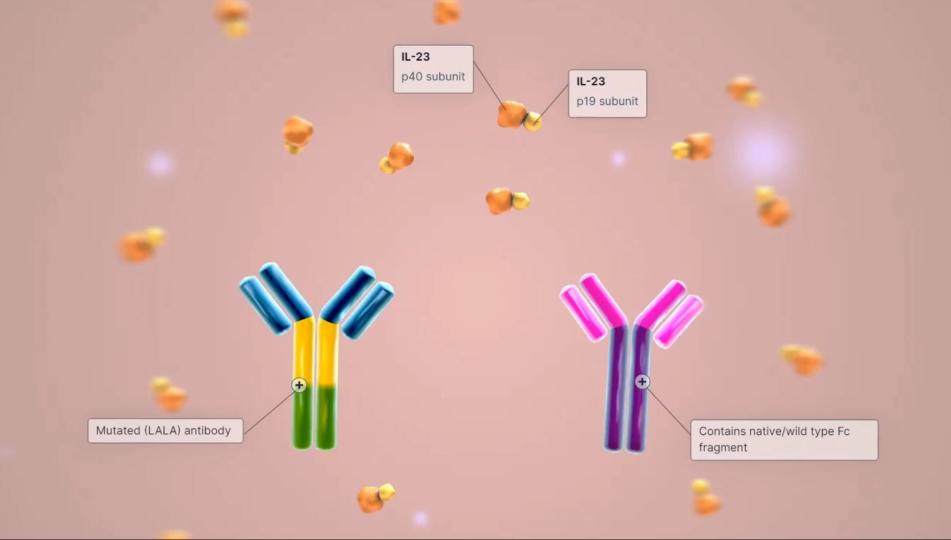
mAb = monoclonal antibody; Fc = fragment crystallizable; LALA = leucine to alanine substitutions at positions 234 and 235; IgG = immunoglobulin G. *GUS is approved for adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis and active psoriatic arthritis. RZB is approved for adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis, active psoriatic arthritis, and moderately to severely active Crohn's disease. 1. D'Haens G, et al. *Lancet.* 2022;399(10340):2015-2030. 2. Ferrante M, et al. *Lancet.* 2022;399(10340):2031-2046. 3. Sandborn WJ, et al. *Gastroenterology.* 2022;162(6):1650-1664. 4. Dignass A, et al. *J Crohns Colitis.* 2022;16(suppl 1):i025-i026. 5. Louis E, et al. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2004;19(5):511-519. 6. Vos AC, et al.

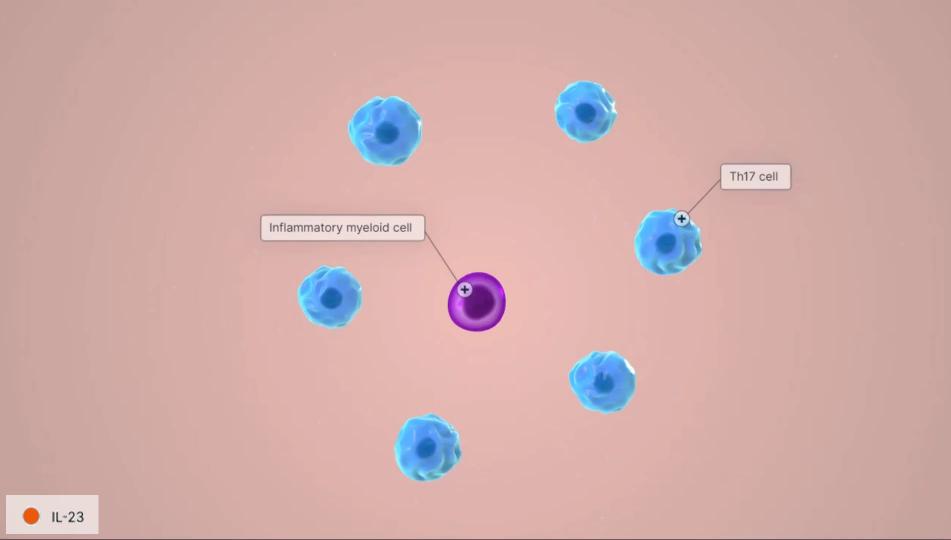
Gastroenterology. 2011;140(1):221-230. 7. Wojtal KA, et al. PLoS One. 2012;7(8):e43361.

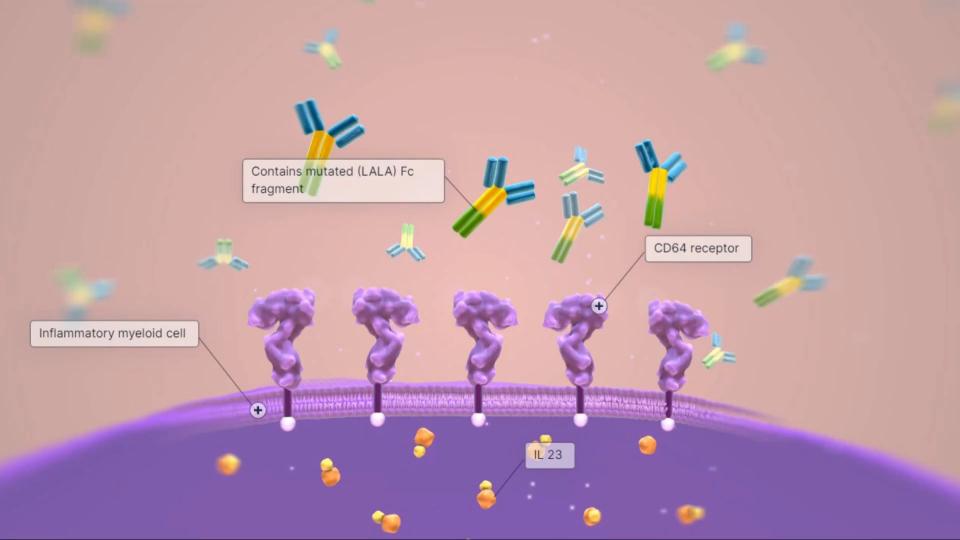


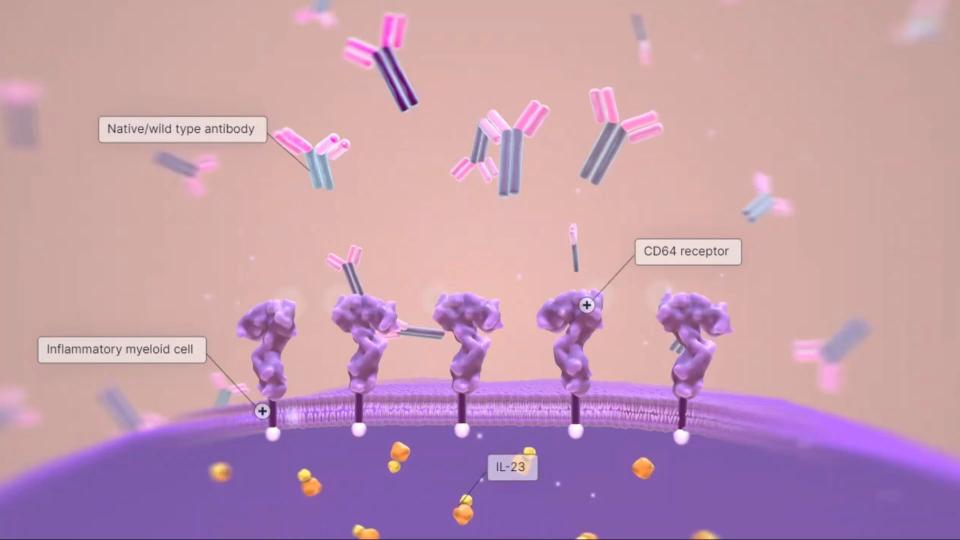












Which of the following was found in the MODIF-Y study when comparing binding affinity of guselkumab and risankizumab to CD64 receptors?

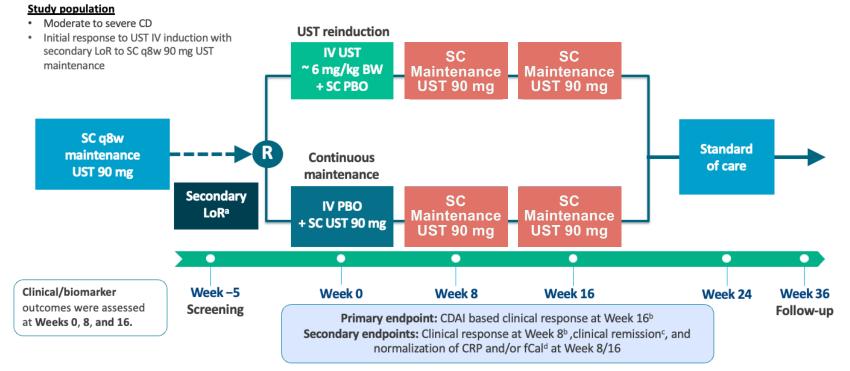
- A. Binding of both guselkumab and risankizumab to CD64
- B. Binding of guselkumab only to CD64
- C. Binding of risankizumab only to CD64
- D. I don't know



How will we optimize IL-23 targeting agents? How can we consider rational combination therapies?



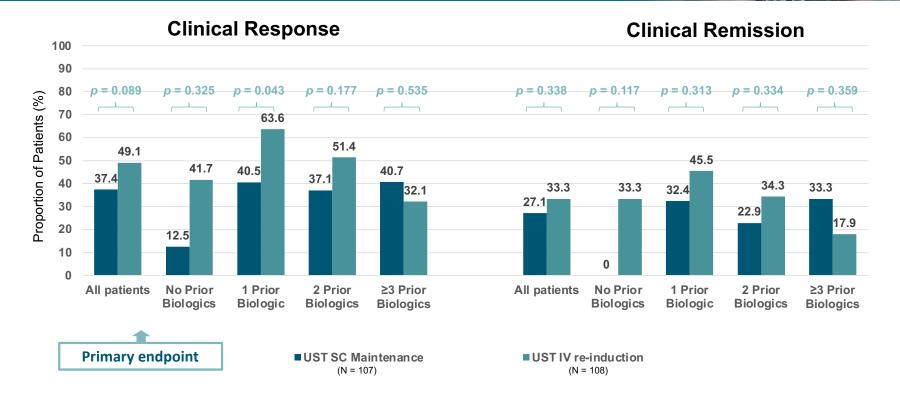
POWER Study: Phase IIIb Ustekinumab in C





Schreiber S, et al. United European Gastroenterology Week. 2023. Abstract No. OP216.

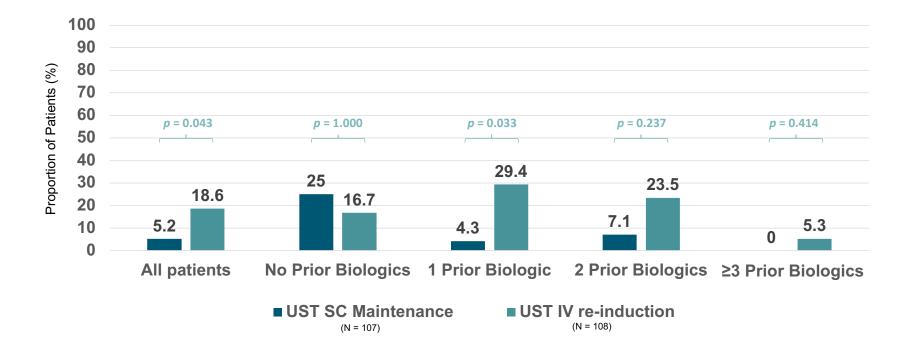
POWER Study: Clinical Response and Remission at Wk16 Based on Number of Prior Failed Biologics

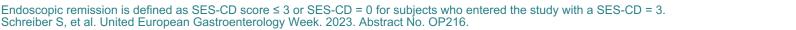


Clinical response was defined as a CDAI < 150 or a decrease of \geq 100 points from Week 0. Schreiber S, et al. United European Gastroenterology Week. 2023. Abstract No. OP216.

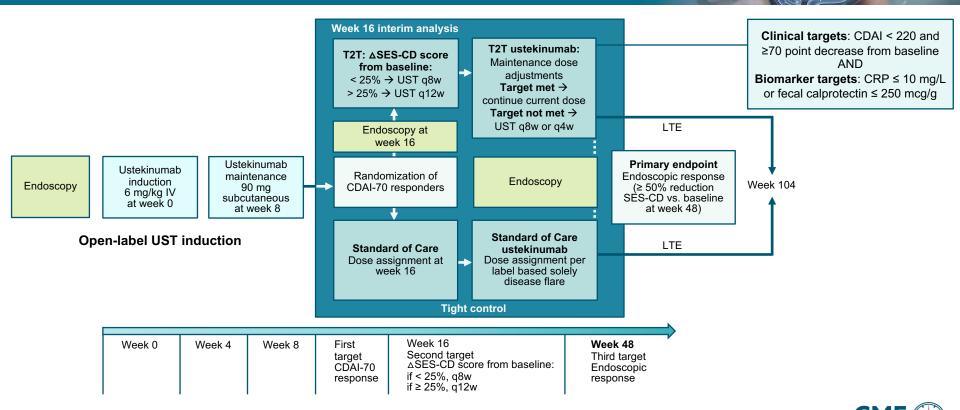


POWER Study: Endoscopic Remission at Wk16 Based on Number of Prior Failed Biologics



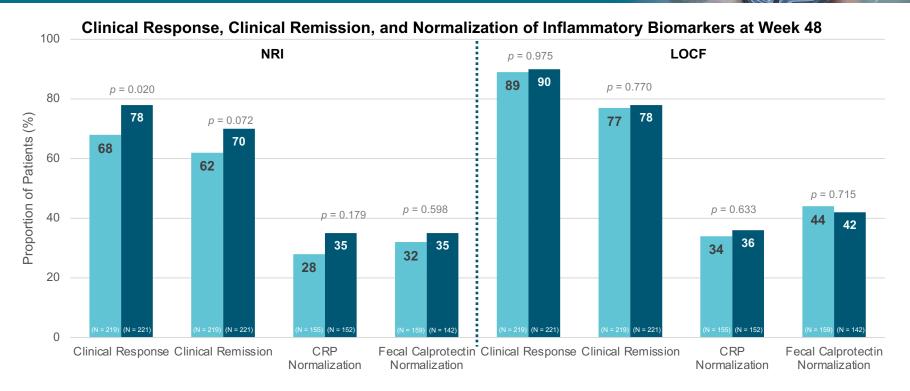


STARDUST: Ustekinumab in CD with T2T Versus SoC Strategy



CRP = C-reactive protein; LTE = long-term extension; SES-CD = simple endoscopic score in Crohn's disease; SoC = standard of care; T2T = treat-to-target. Danese S, et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2022;7(4):294-306.

STARDUST: Ustekinumab in CD with T2T Versus SoC Strategy

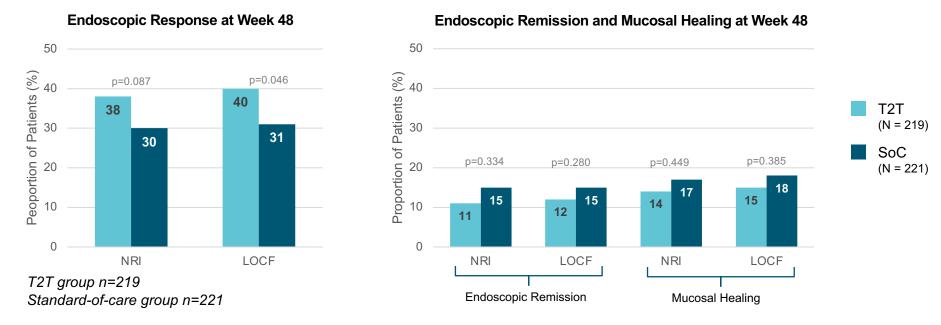


■T2T ■SoC





STARDUST: Endoscopic Outcomes at 48 Wee

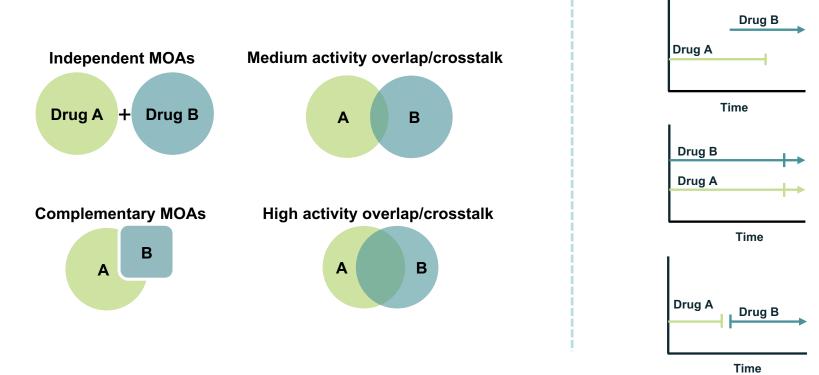


- Dose escalation rates: 42% in T2T group and 30% in standard of care (SoC) group
- Shortened dosing intervals → increased UST trough levels but did not significantly increase endoscopic or clinical response at week 48
- Non-significant difference in rate of endoscopic response between T2T and SoC groups



Danese S, et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2022;7(4):294-306.

Considerations for Combination Therap





Advanced Combination Therapy

Anti-IL-23 + anti-TNF

- VEGA
- DUET-CD
- DUET-UC

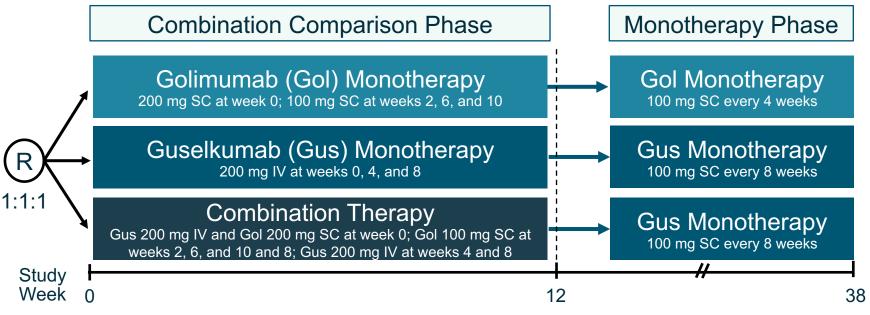
Anti-integrin + anti-TNF + methotrexate EXPLORER



Solitano V, et al. Gastroenterol Hepatol (NY). 2023;19(5): 251-263. Noor NM. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2023;20(12):761.

VEGA: Golimumab, Guselkumab*, or Combination Therapy in UC

 Included TNF-naïve patients refractory to conventional therapy (e.g., immunomodulators, corticosteroids)

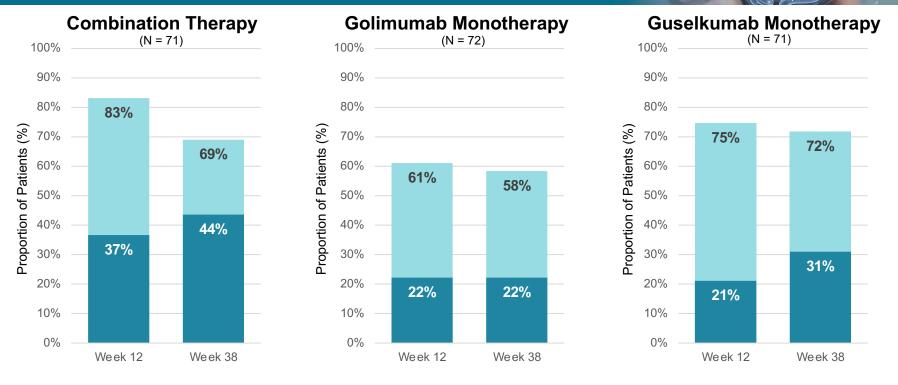


*Guselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of UC. Feagan BG, et al. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2023;8(4):307-320.



VEGA: Golimumab, Guselkumab*, or Combination Therapy in UC

Clinical response (full Mayo score)



Clinical remission (full Mayo score)



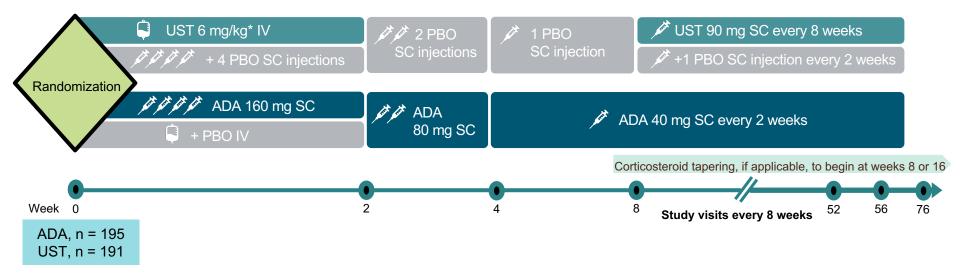
*Guselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of UC. Feagan BG, et al. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2023;8(4):307-320.

What do we know about positioning IL-23 targeted therapies?

Faculty Discussion

SEAVUE: Adalimumab vs Ustekinumab in Comparison of the second sec

- Multicenter, randomized, blinded, active-controlled study
- Biologic-naïve patients failing or intolerant to conventional therapy with an ulcer of any size on baseline ileocolonoscopy

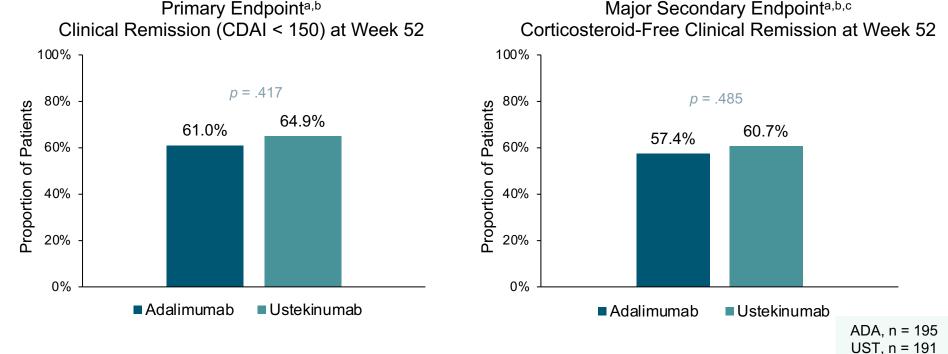


ADA = adalimumab.

*UST 260 mg (weight ≤ 55 kg); UST 390 mg (weight > 55 kg and ≤ 85 kg); UST 520 mg (weight > 85 kg) Sands B, et al. *Lancet*. 2022;399(10342):2200-2211.



SEAVUE: Adalimumab vs. Ustekinumab in

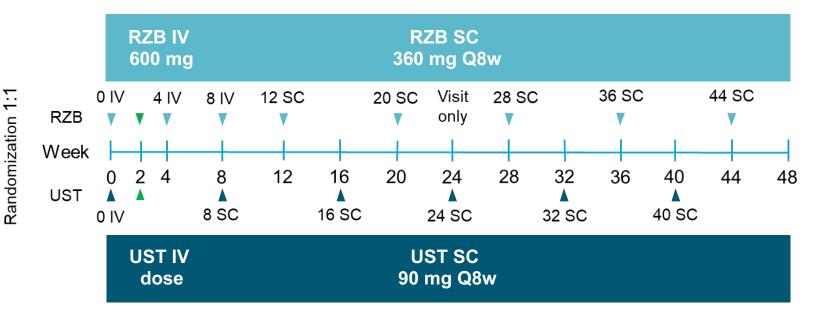


NOTE: not receiving corticosteroids at week 52 is defined as corticosteroid free for ≥ 30 days prior to week 52

^aPatients who had CD-related surgery, concomitant medication changes, or discontinued study agent due to lack of efficacy or an adverse event considered not to be in clinical remission. ^bInsufficient data to calculate the CDAI score= not to be in clinical remission. ^cLast value carried forward for patients with missing information related to corticosteroid use. ^dCIs based on the Wald statistic with Mantel-Haenszel weight. Sands BE, et al. *Lancet.* 2022;399(10342):2200-2211.

SEQUENCE: Risankizumab vs Ustekinumab Head-to-Head RCT

SEQUENCE



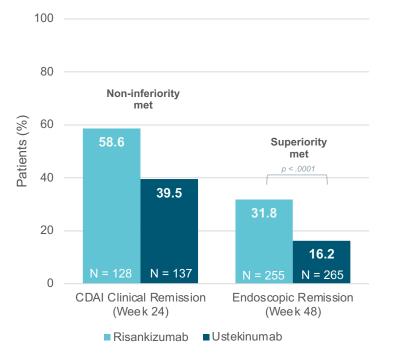
Mandatory steroid taper beginning at week 2

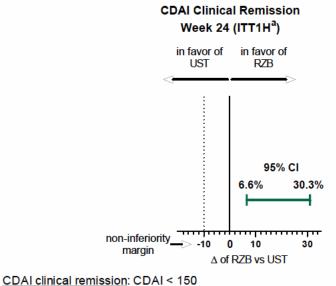
Peyrin-Biroulet L, et al. United European Gastroenterology Week. 2023. Abstract No. LB01.



SEQUENCE: Risankizumab vs Ustekinumab Head-to-Head RCT

Risankizumab vs Ustekinumab





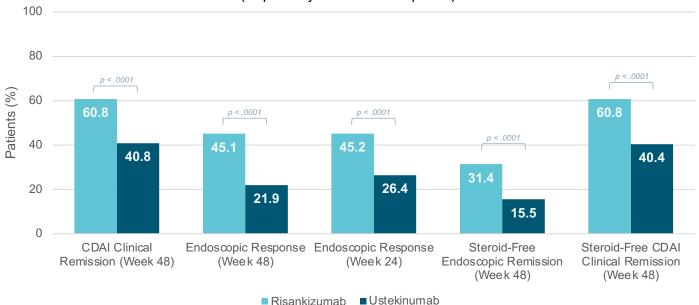
Endoscopic remission: SES-CD \leq 4 and at least a 2-point reduction vs BL and no subscore > 1 in any individual variable, as scored by a central reviewer



Peyrin-Biroulet L, et al. United European Gastroenterology Week. 2023. Abstract No. LB01.

SEQUENCE: Risankizumab vs Ustekinumab Head-to-Head RCT

Ranked Secondary Endpoints (ITT1a)



(N = 265)

(Superiority met for all endpoints)

CDAI clinical remission = CDAI < 150; Endoscopic response = decrease in SES-CD > 50% from BL (or for subjects with isolated ileal disease and a baseline SES-CD of 4, at least a 2-point reduction from BL; Endoscopic remission = SES-CD \leq 4 and at least a 2-point reduction from BL and no subscore > 1 in any individual variable.

(N = 255)

Peyrin-Biroulet L, et al. United European Gastroenterology Week. 2023. Abstract No. LB01.

SMART Goals



Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely

- Consider the underlying mechanisms behind the inflammatory pathways implicated in IBD, such as those impacting IL-23 and Th17 pathways, when considering treatment options
- Differentiate between IL-23 targeting therapies and their unique characteristics to individualize and optimize patient treatment
- Increase utilization of clinical data from treatments targeting IL-23 when developing treatment plans for patients with IBD



QUESTIONS ANSWERS

Thank you for joining us. Don't forget to collect your credit.

Additional Resources

To learn more, engage with this interactive 3D digital animation.

Scan the QR code and click on the "Material" tab to access.





Visit the Gastroenterology Hub

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https://www.cmeoutfitters.com/gastrohub/*

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