

從 A 到 Z 線上藥學論壇

From A to Z online webinar series

嚴重性氣喘生物製劑療法：

綜觀生物製劑帶給病患的改善

林口長庚紀念醫院 胸腔內科系 呼吸道疾病科

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處方用藥請參考衛生福利部核准仿單說明書



Difficult-to-treat Asthma

(poor control despite med/high-dose ICS+2nd controller or mOCS)

Alternative diagnosis

- Non-Asthma:**
 Bronchiolitis
 Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
 Upper airway disease
 COPD
 Vocal cord spasm



**Compliance /
Technique**



Comorbidity

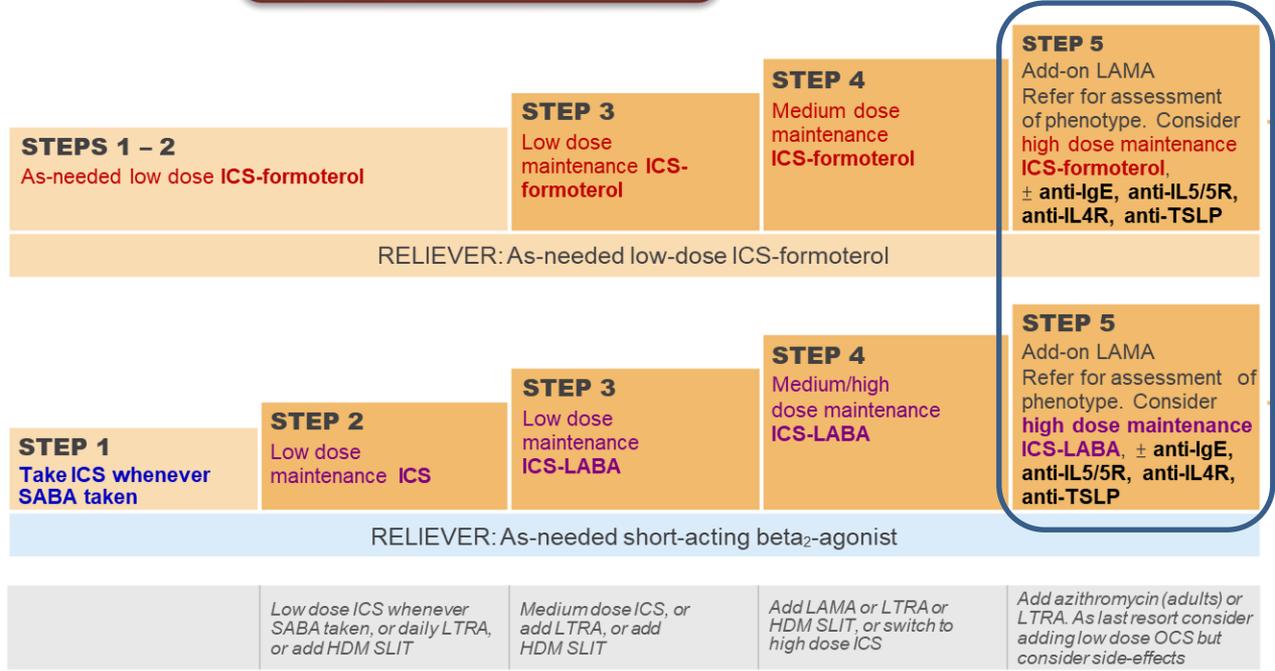
- Sinusitis/Allergic rhinitis**
 GERD
 Aspirin sensitive
 Emotional
 Pre-menstruation
 Occupational
 ABPA



Severe Asthma



CONTROLLER and **PREFERRED RELIEVER** (Track 1). Using ICS-formoterol as reliever reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever



CONTROLLER and **ALTERNATIVE RELIEVER** (Track 2). Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to be adherent with daily controller

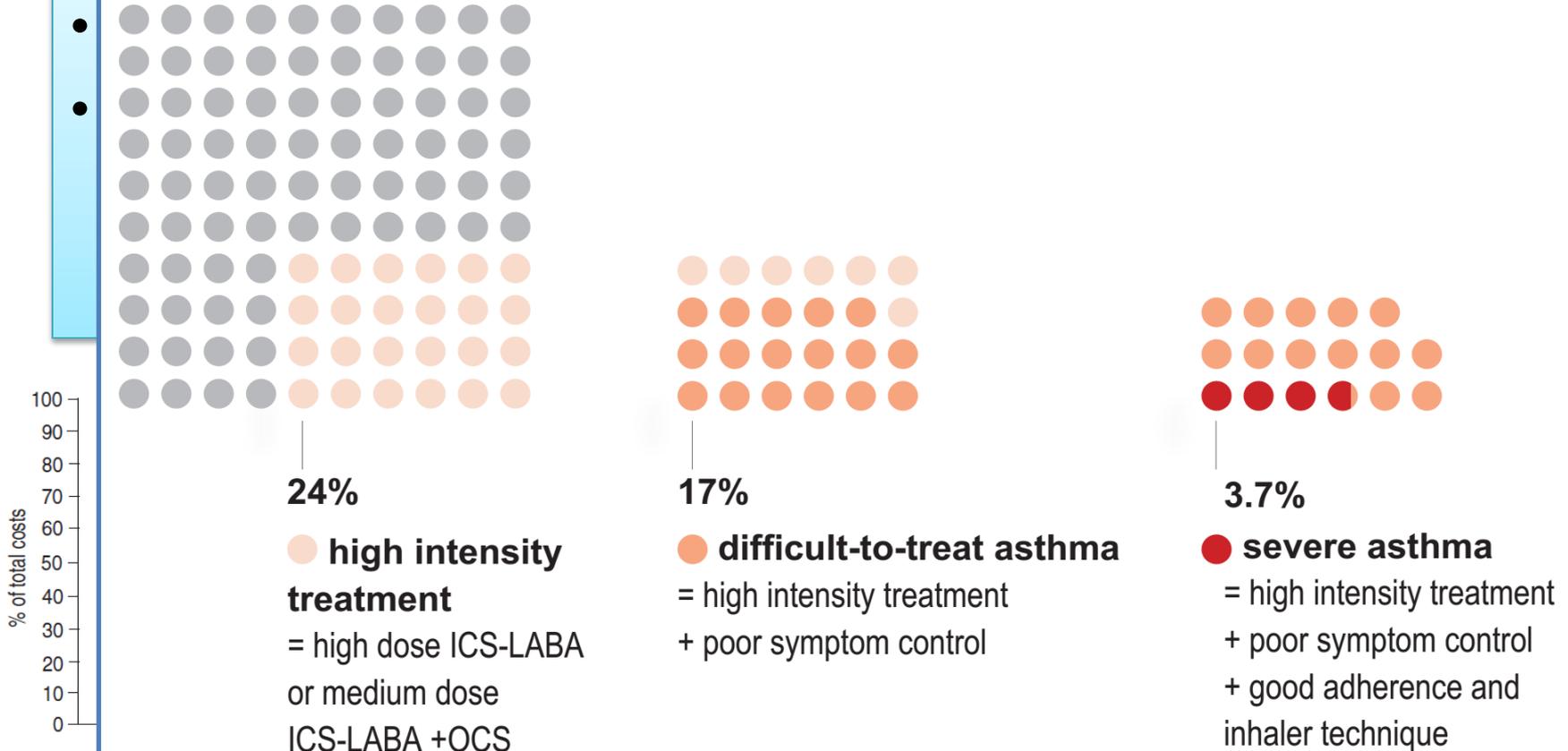
Other controller options for either track (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety)

	Low dose ICS whenever SABA taken, or daily LTRA, or add HDM SLIT	Medium dose ICS, or add LTRA, or add HDM SLIT	Add LAMA or LTRA or HDM SLIT, or switch to high dose ICS
			Add azithromycin (adults) or LTRA. As last resort consider adding low dose OCS but consider side-effects

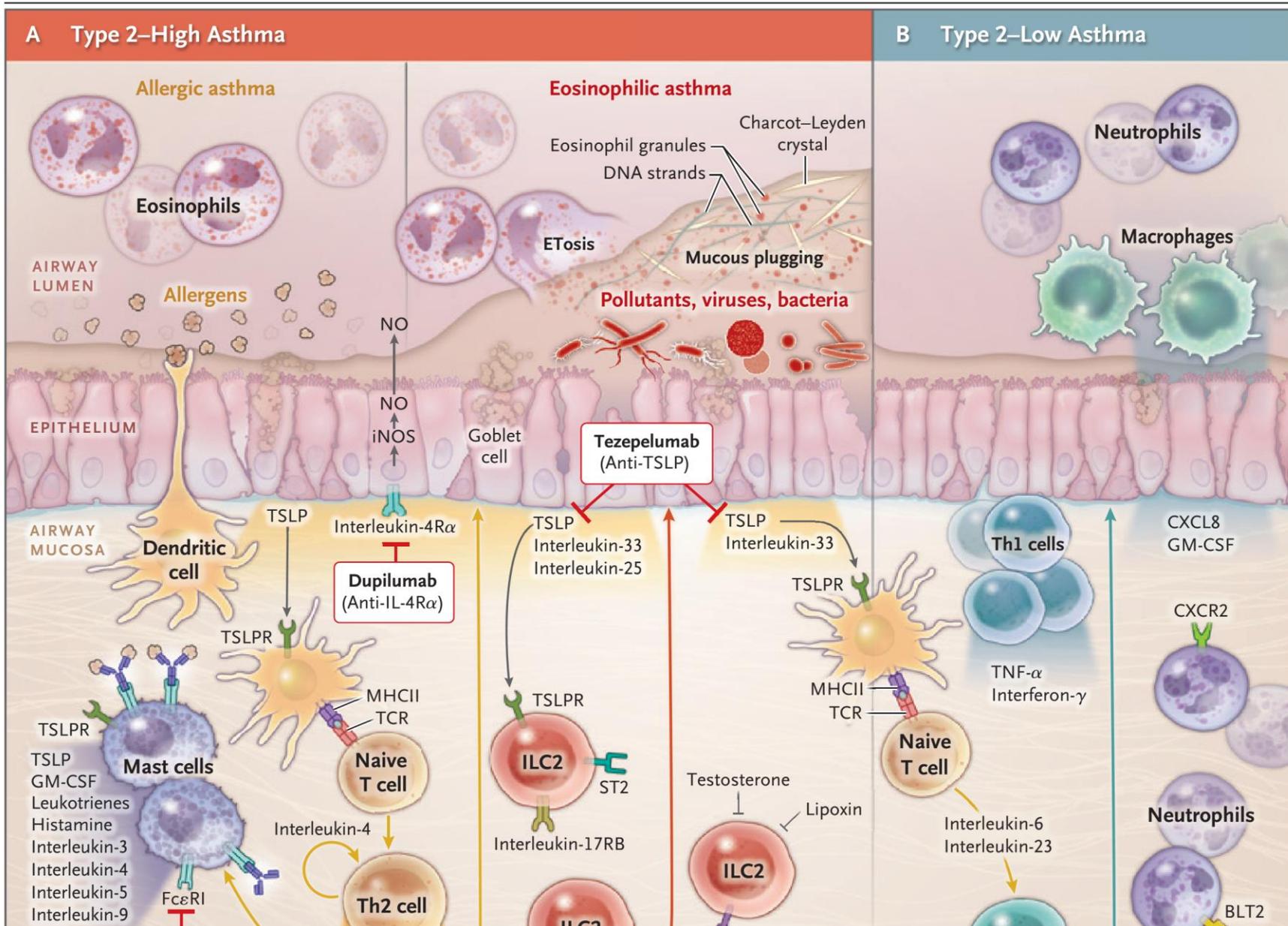
High resource consumption and unmet need for

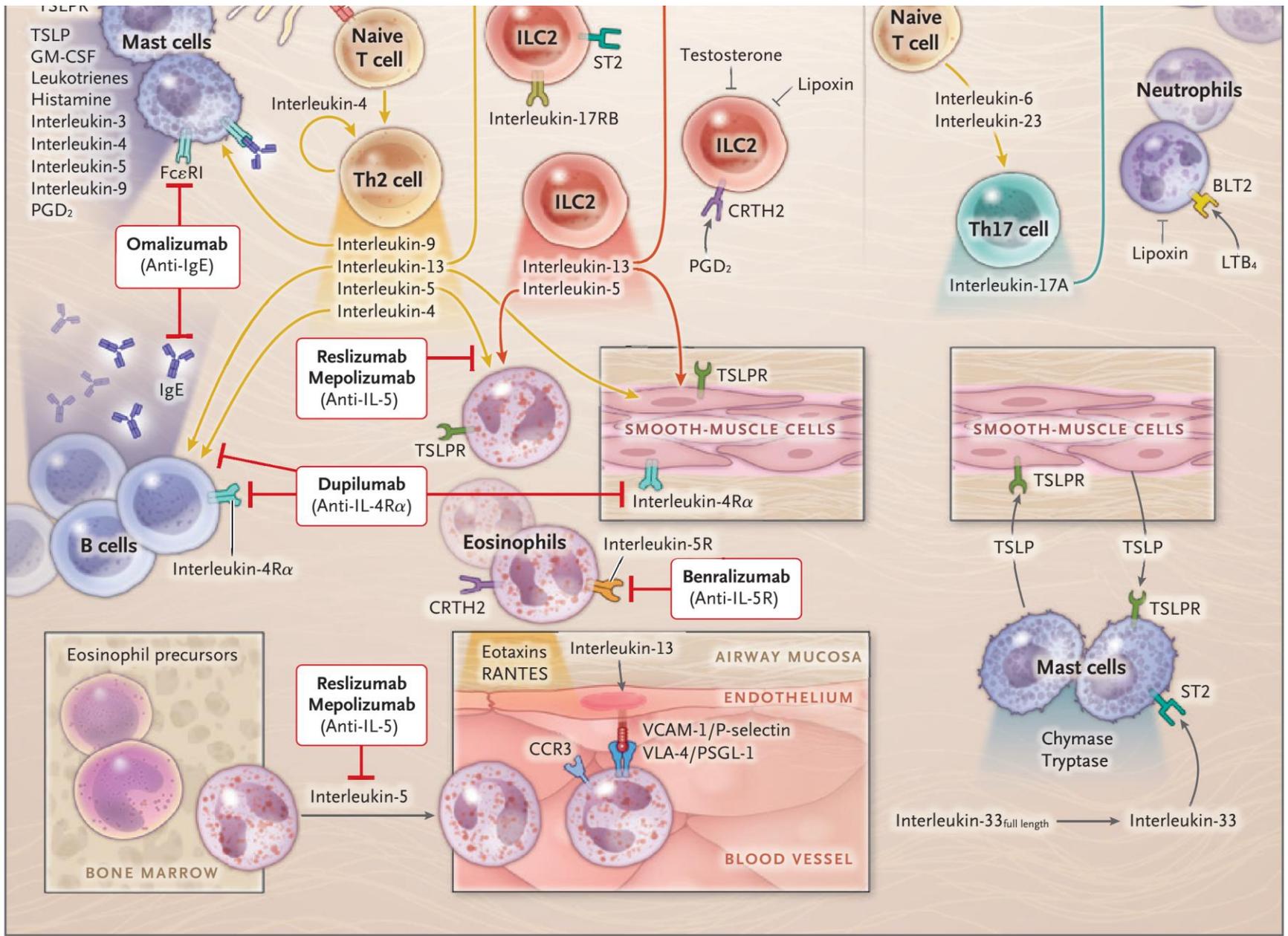
Prevalence: how many people have severe asthma?

Box 1. What proportion of adults have difficult-to-treat or severe asthma?



These data are from a Dutch population survey of people ≥ 18 years with asthma²



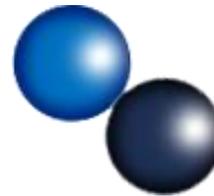


Identification of asthma with refractory or underlying Type 2 inflammation

The possibility of refractory Type 2 inflammation should be considered if any of the following are found while the patient is taking high dose ICS or daily OCS:



Blood EOS ≥ 150
cells/ μ L



FeNO ≥ 20 ppb



Sputum EOS $\geq 2\%$



**Clinically allergen-
driven asthma**

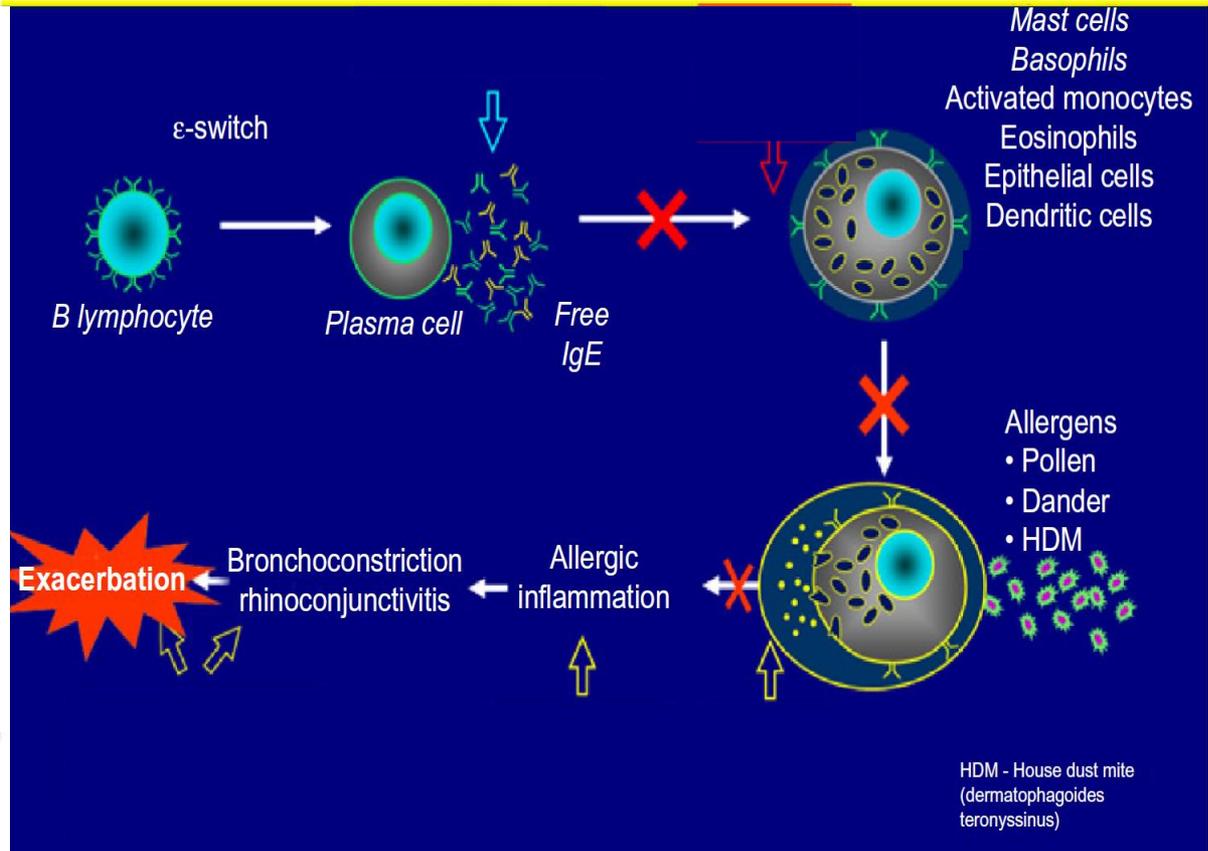
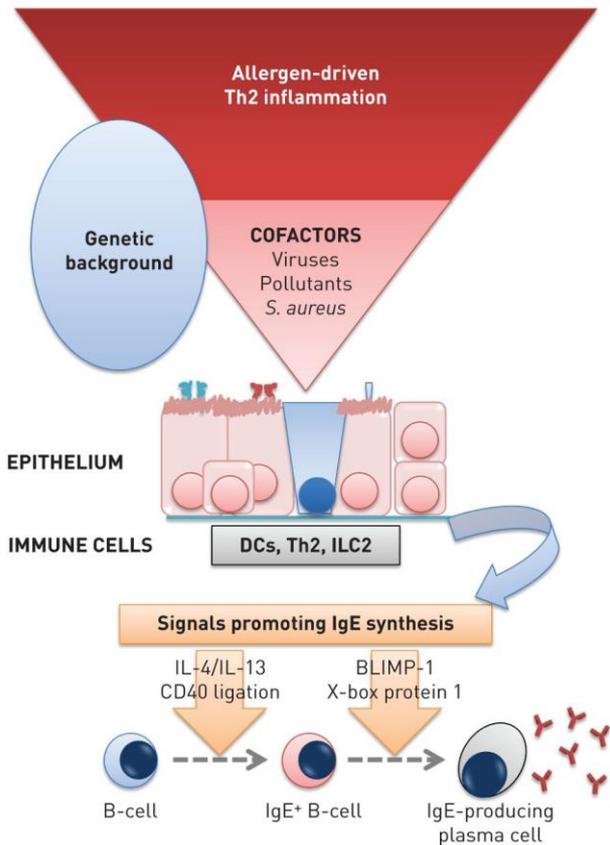
(Repeat blood eosinophils and FeNO up to 3x, at least 1-2 weeks after OCS or on lowest possible OCS dose)

Biologic agents approved by the FDA (and available in Taiwan) for treatment of severe asthma

Table 1. Biologic Agents Approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the Treatment of Severe Asthma.*

Biologic Agent (Therapeutic Target and Mechanism of Action)	Route of Administration and Dose†	Forms	Indication	Patient Yr of Age‡	Efficacy	Safety Concerns
Benralizumab (interleukin-5R α ; antibody binds to interleukin-5R α on eosinophils and basophils, depleting them through antibody-dependent, cell-mediated cytotoxicity)	SC; 30 mg every 4 wk (first 3 doses), followed by 30 mg every 8 wk	Prefilled syringe, autoinjector pen	Severe eosinophilic asthma	≥ 12	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small or moderate effect on FEV $_1$; decrease or withdrawal of OGs if blood eosinophils $>150/\mu\text{l}$; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, hypersensitivity reactions, abrupt discontinuation of OGs
Dupilumab (interleukin-4R α ; antibody binds to interleukin-4R α , inhibiting interleukin-4 and interleukin-13 signaling in hematopoietic cells [e.g., B cells, CD4+ helper T cells, and eosinophils], epithelial cells, and airway smooth-muscle cells)	Adults and adolescents: SC; initial dose of 400 mg, followed by 200 mg every 2 wk; for glucocorticoid-dependent patients or patients with concomitant moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis, initial dose of 600 mg, followed by 300 mg every 2 wk Children, ages 6–11 yr: SC; dose depends on body weight‡	Prefilled syringe, autoinjector pen	Severe eosinophilic asthma (FDA), severe type 2 asthma (EMA), OG-dependent asthma; other indications: CRS with nasal polyposis, moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis	≥ 6	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, improved lung function; decrease or withdrawal of OGs, irrespective of blood eosinophil count at baseline; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, hypersensitivity reactions, abrupt discontinuation of OGs, hypereosinophilic conditions (e.g., EGPA), conjunctivitis
Mepolizumab (interleukin-5; antibody binds to circulating interleukin-5)	Adults and adolescents: SC; 100 mg every 4 wk Children, ages 6–11 yr: SC; 40 mg every 4 wk	Prefilled syringe, autoinjector pen	Severe eosinophilic asthma; other indications: EGPA, hypereosinophilic syndrome	≥ 6	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small or moderate effect on FEV $_1$; reduction or withdrawal of OGs if blood eosinophils $>150/\mu\text{l}$; improved quality of life	Helminthic infections, hypersensitivity reactions, abrupt discontinuation of OGs, herpes zoster infections (rare)
Omalizumab (IgE; antibody binds to Fc part of free IgE, inhibiting binding of IgE to Fc ϵ R1 on mast cells and basophils and Fc ϵ R2 on dendritic cells and eosinophils)	SC; 75 to 375 mg every 2 to 4 wk according to body weight and pretreatment level of serum total IgE	Prefilled syringe	Severe allergic asthma; other indication: chronic idiopathic urticaria	≥ 6	Reduced exacerbations, reduced symptoms, small effect on FEV $_1$; improved quality of life	Serum sickness, hypereosinophilic conditions (e.g., EGPA), abrupt discontinuation of OGs; black-box warning for anaphylaxis (occurring in $\pm 0.2\%$ of patients)

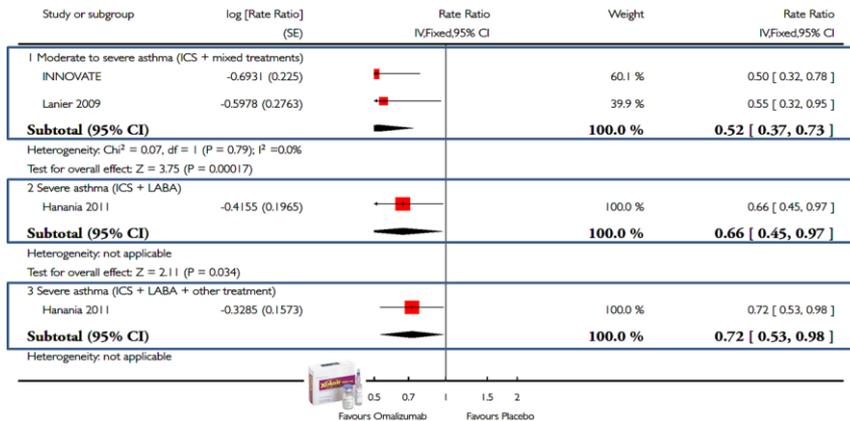
Severe allergic asthma



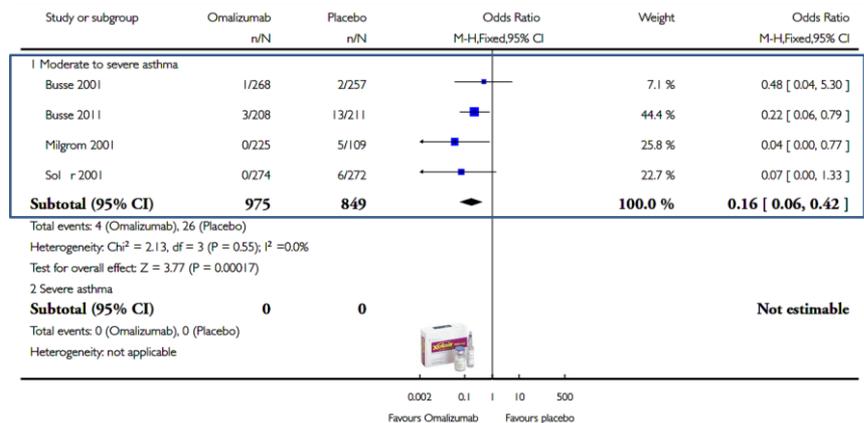
Clinical efficacy of omalizumab in severe allergic asthma



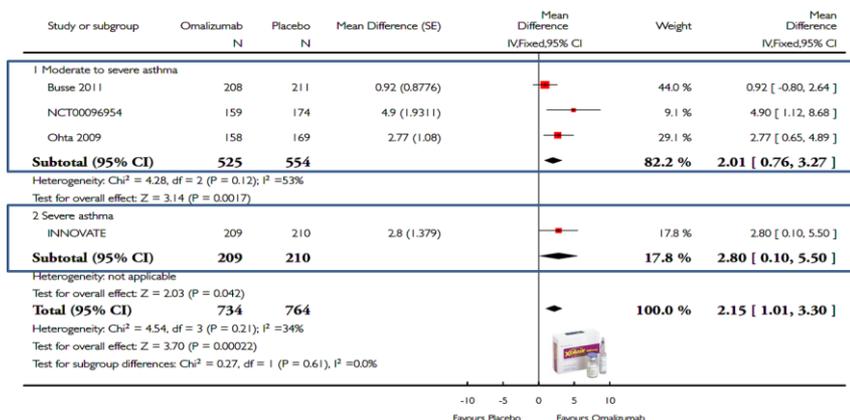
Exacerbations requiring oral steroids



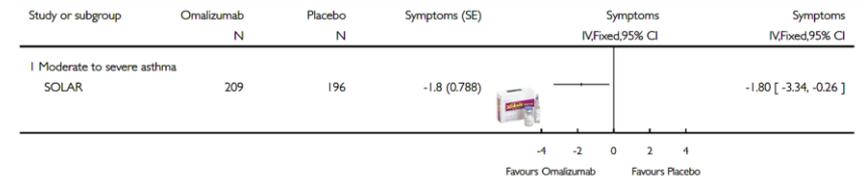
Hospitalisations



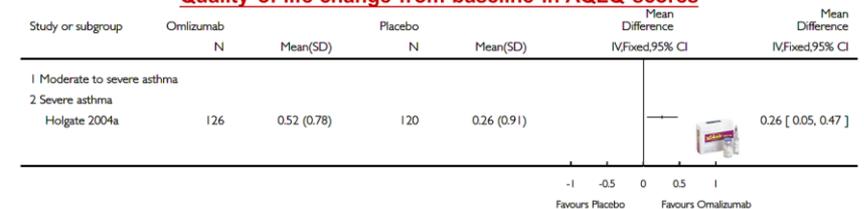
Change of FEV₁ predicted



Mean change in Wasserfallen asthma score



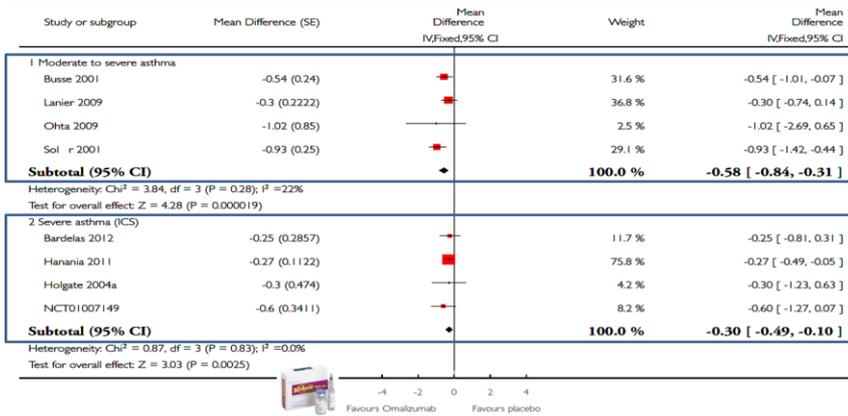
Quality of life change from baseline in AQLQ scores



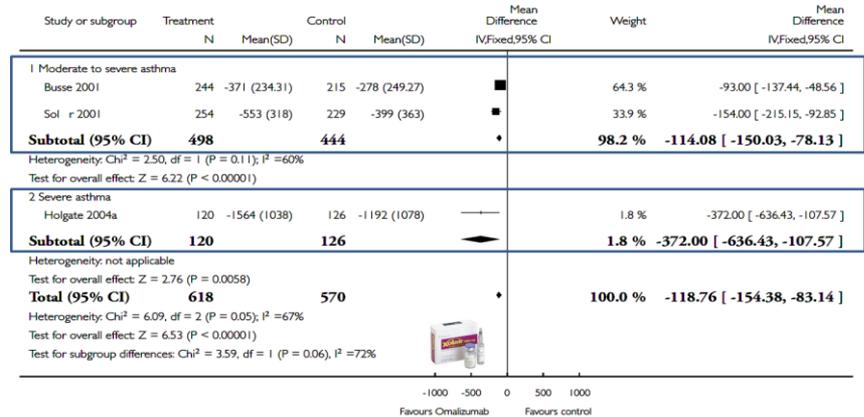
Clinical efficacy of omalizumab in severe allergic asthma



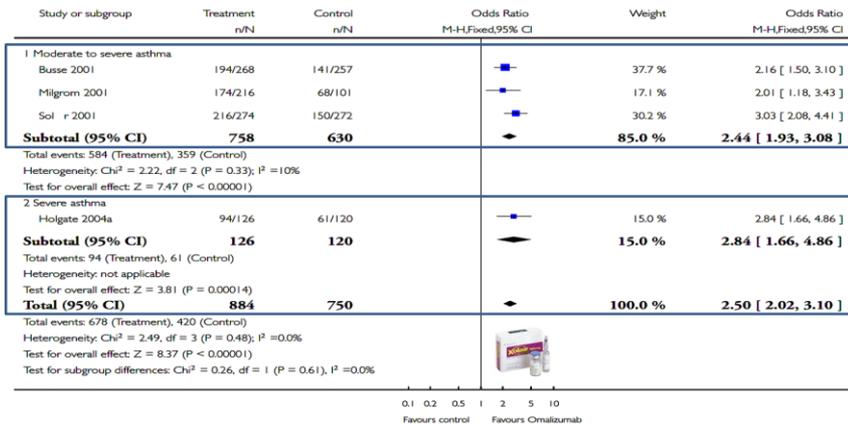
Rescue medication



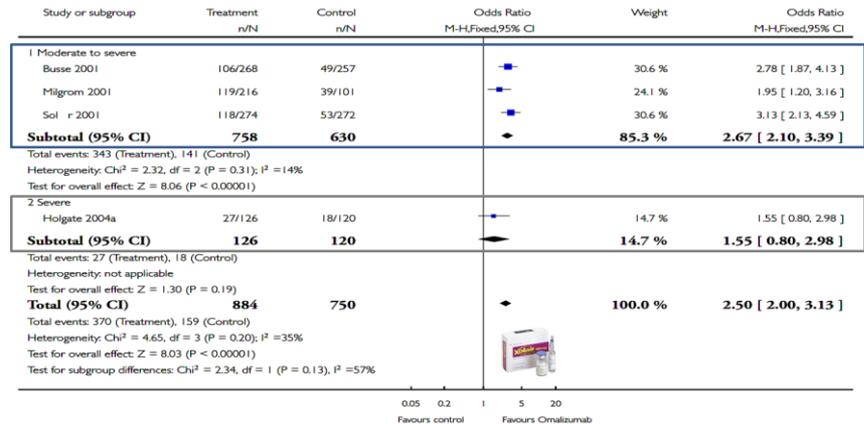
Mean change in steroid consumption (BDP equivalent)



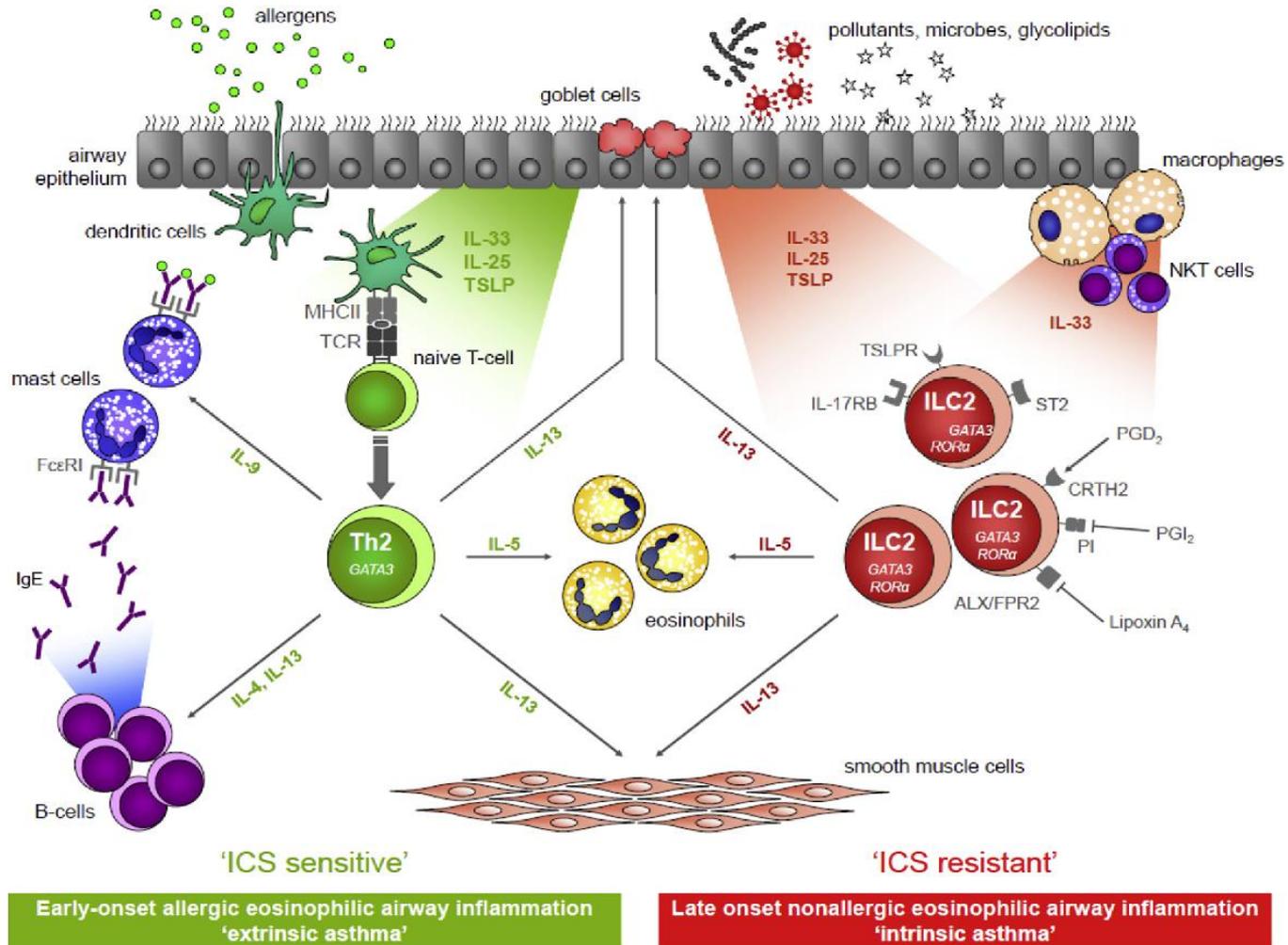
> 50% reduction in inhaled steroid usage



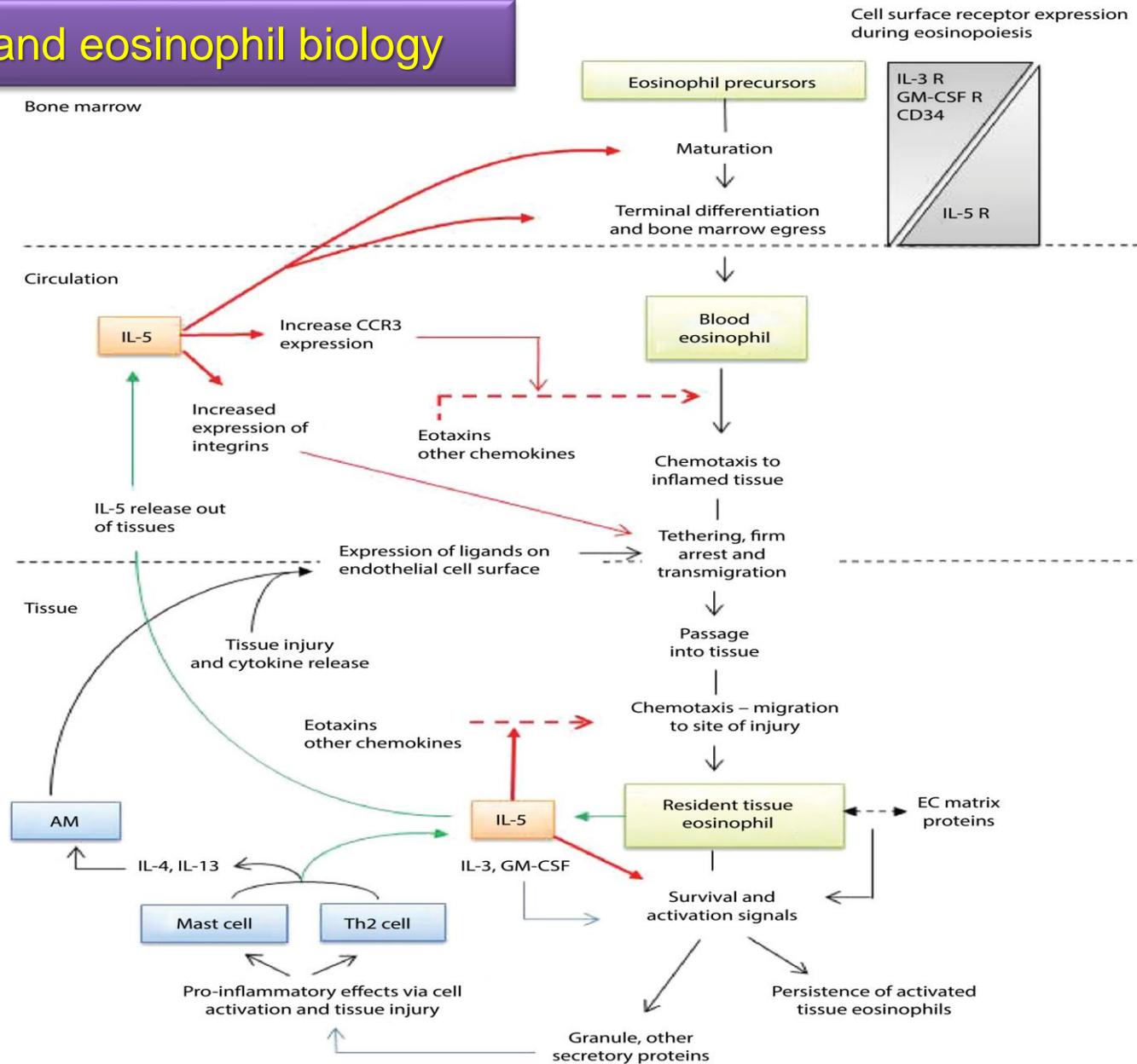
Number of participants achieving complete inhaled steroid withdrawal



Severe eosinophilic asthma



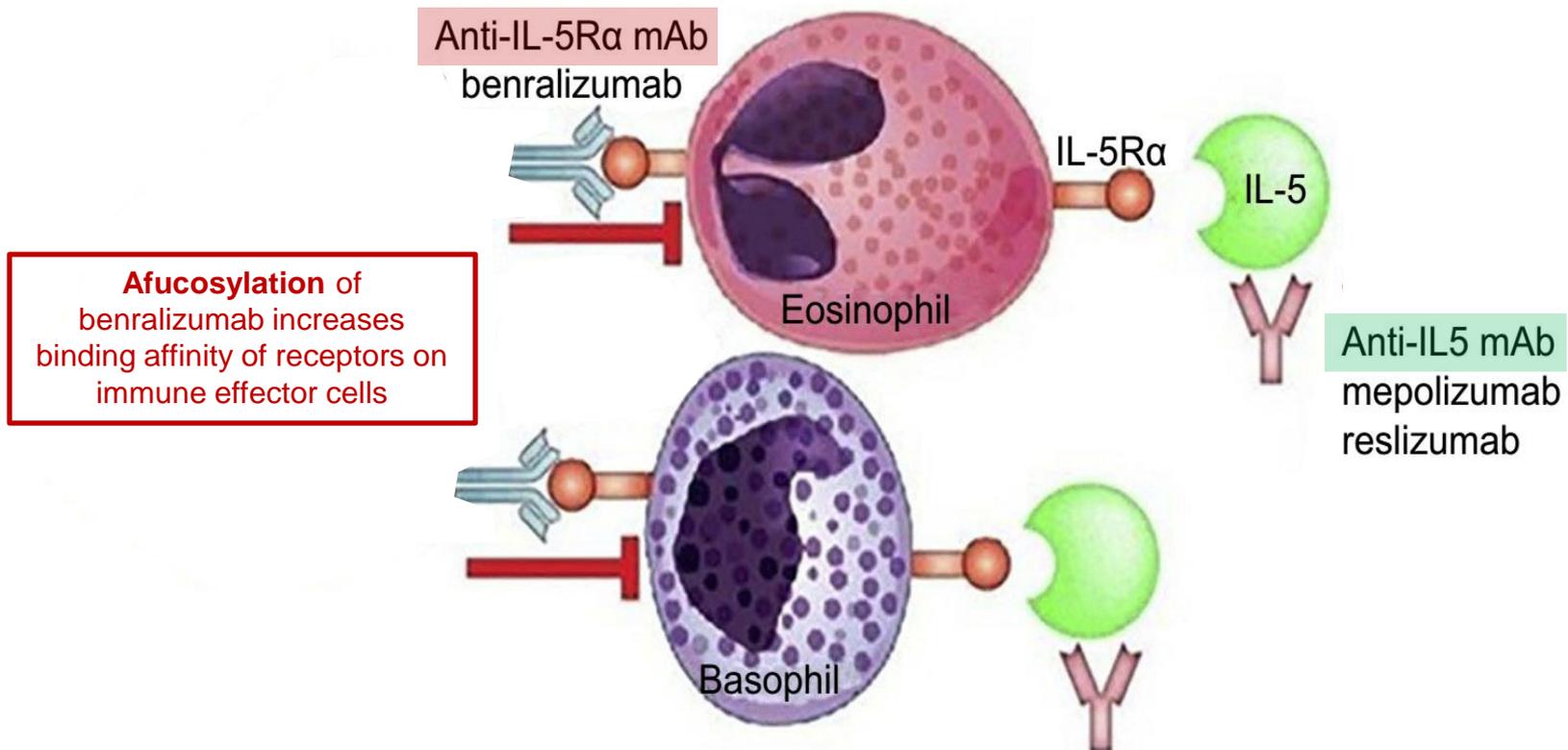
IL-5 and eosinophil biology



Anti-IL5 vs anti-IL5R α monoclonal antibodies: Similar but different mechanism

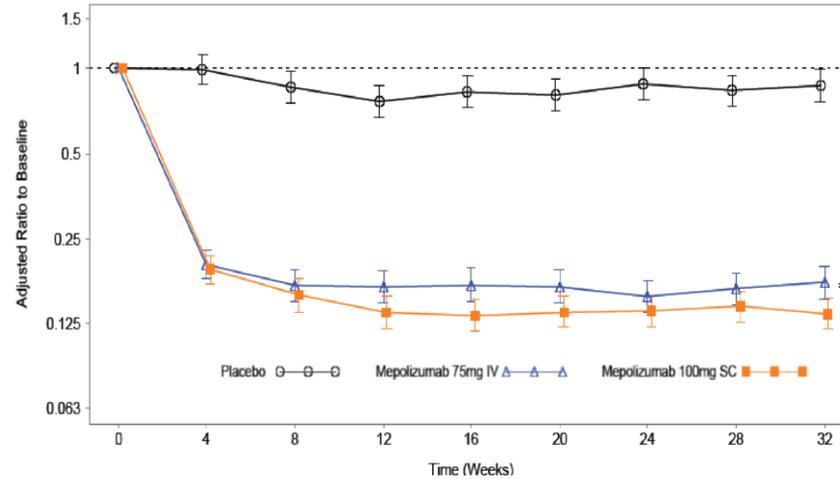
ADCC

(antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity)

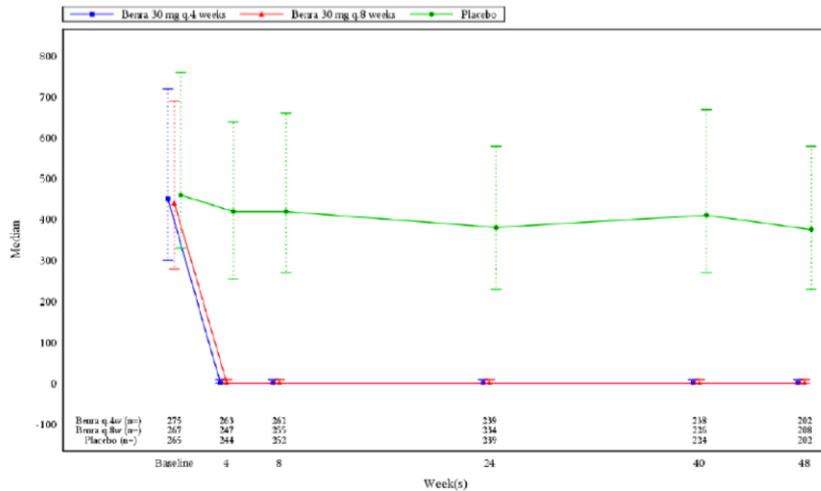


Benralizumab depletes blood eosinophils in severe eosinophilic asthma

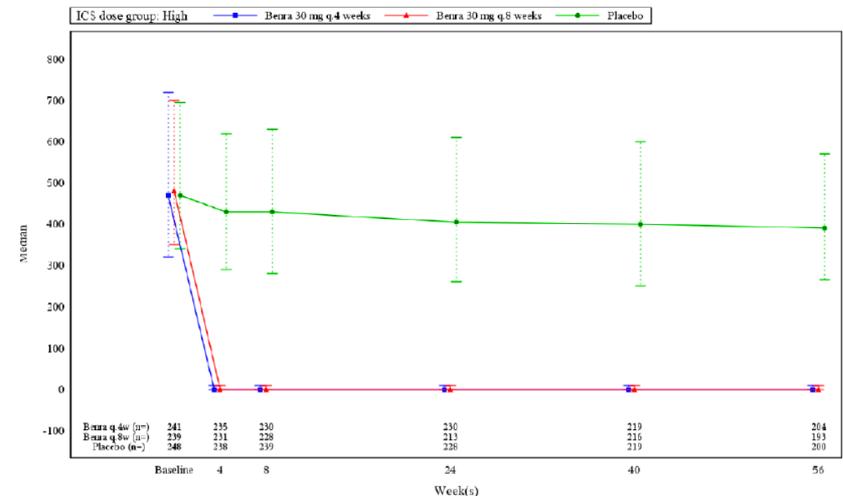
Mepolizumab [MENSA]



Benralizumab [SIROCCO]



Benralizumab [CALIMA]

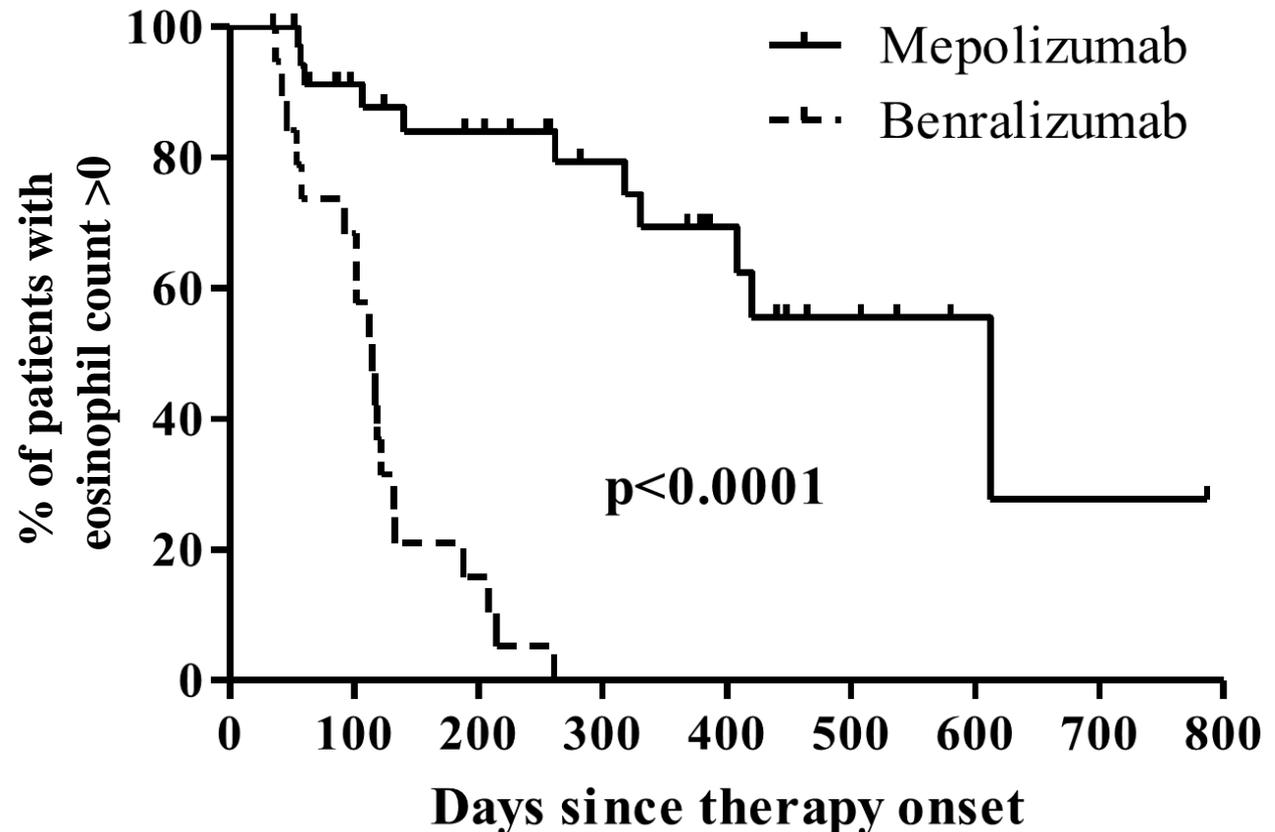


Ortega HG *et al. N Engl J Med.* 2014;371(13):1198-1207; FDA Clinical pharmacology and biopharmaceutics review(s) for Fasena; Ghassemian A, *et al. Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol.* 2021 Jan 6;17(1):3

Superior effect in suppressing blood eosinophils in severe eosinophilic asthma treated with benralizumab vs mepolizumab

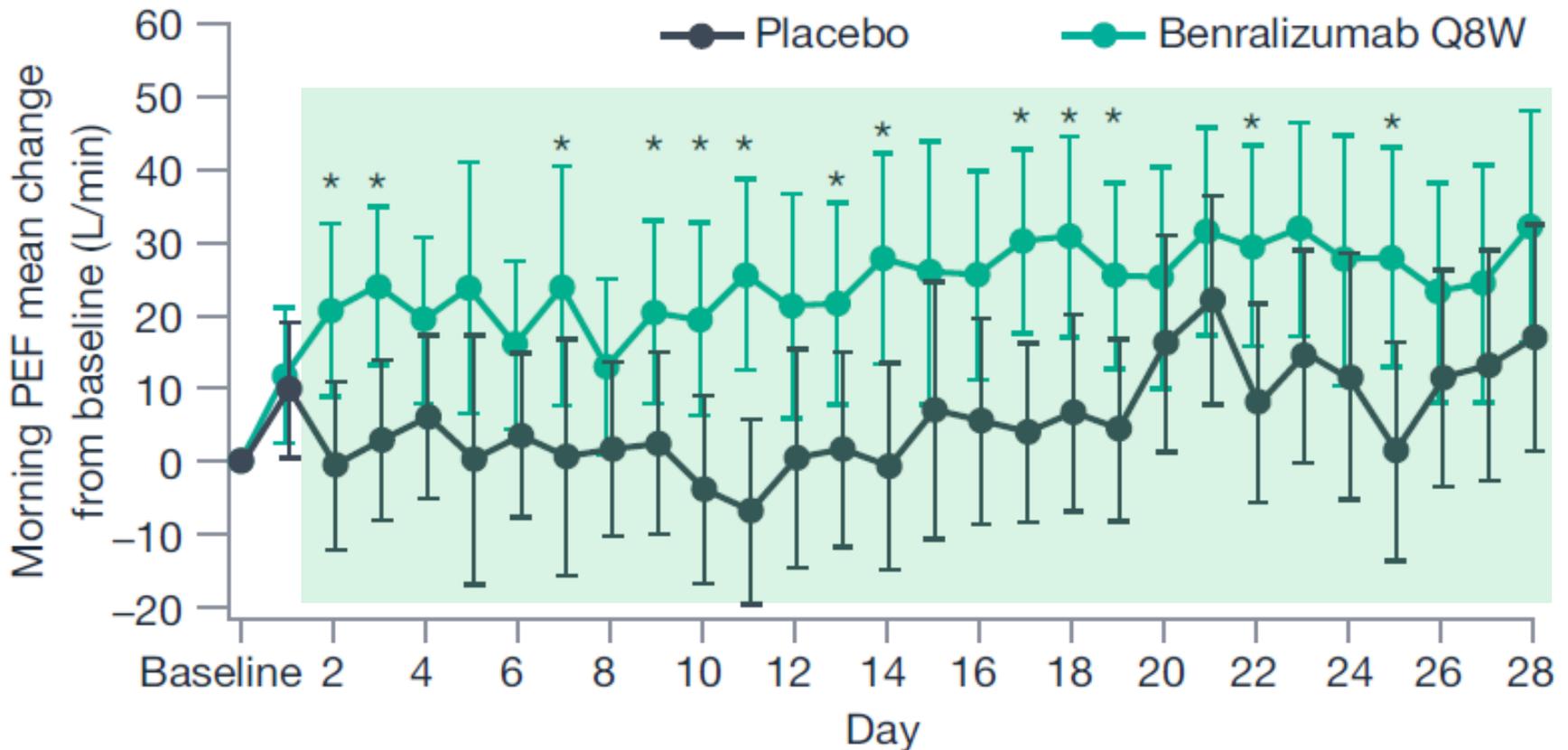
100% of patients receiving benralizumab vs 69% receiving mepolizumab achieved undetectable eosinophil counts post-therapy ($p < 0.0001$)

- Retrospective study
- Patients with **severe eosinophilic asthma** (mean Eos : 571/ μ L) approved for either IL-5 agent (36 mepolizumab; 19 benralizumab)
- The last detectable eosinophil count for each patient prior to start of therapy compared to the highest eosinophil count noted after therapy for ≥ 30 days



Rapid improvement of PEF with benralizumab in severe eosinophilic asthma [ZONDA]

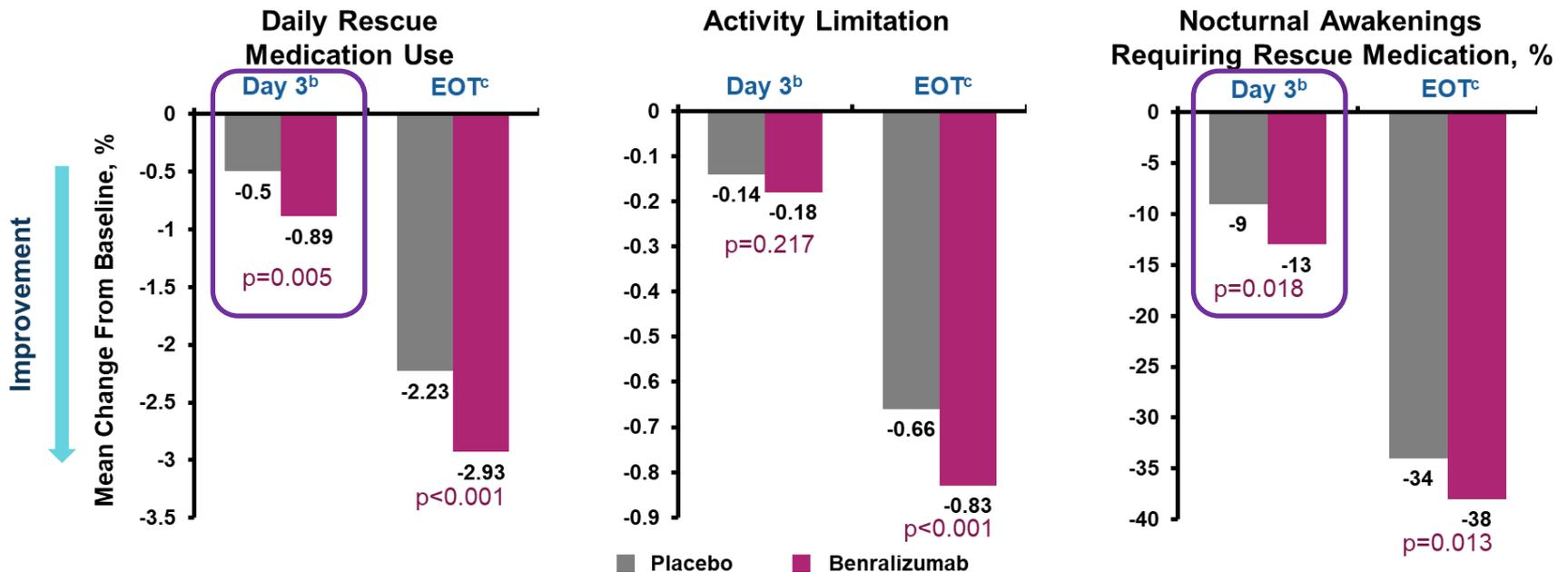
Benralizumab improves PEFr in severe eosinophilic asthma as early as early as 2 days after treatment



Rapid improvement of patient-reported outcomes with benralizumab in severe eosinophilic asthma

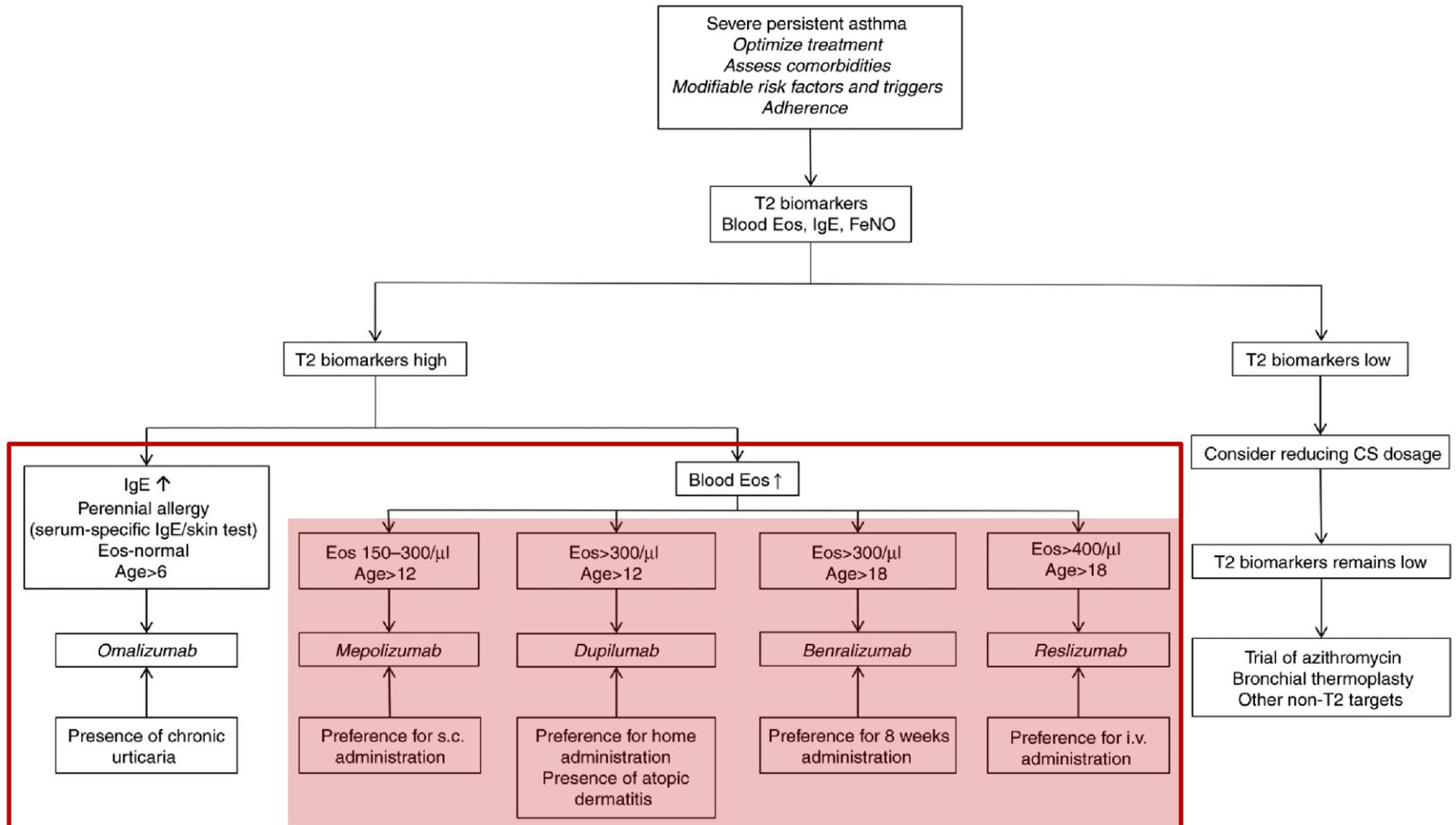
[SIROCCO & CALIMA]

Benralizumab significantly reduced rescuer use and nocturnal symptoms as early as 3 days (eosinophils ≥ 300 cells/ μ l)



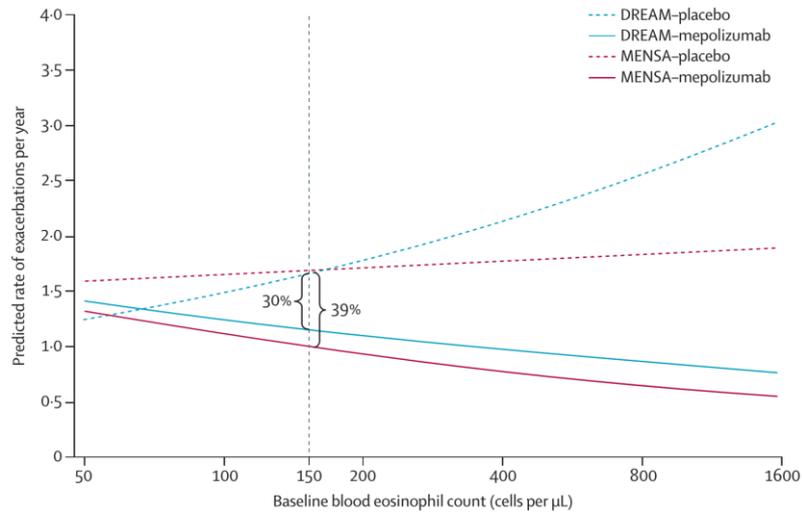
Results as reported in patient daily diaries

Biologic treatment for severe asthma with ↑ T2 inflammation: Overlapped eligibility



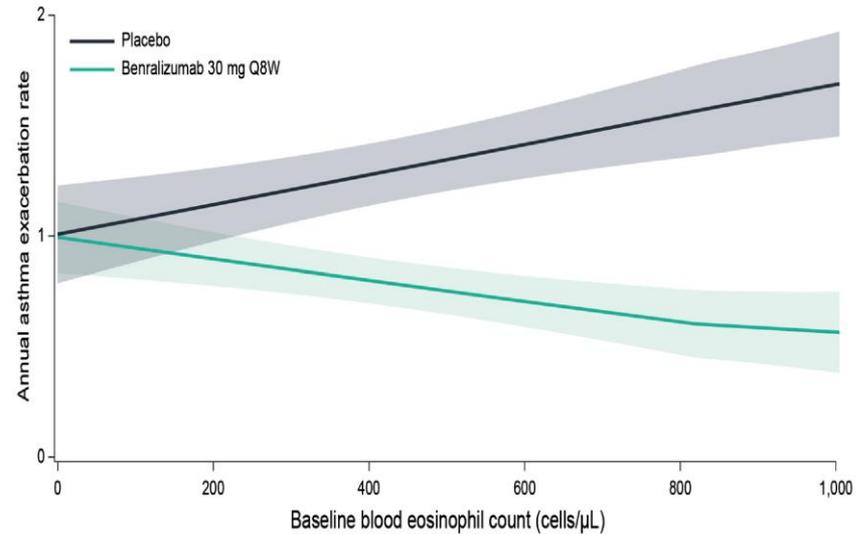
Blood eosinophil count as predictor of response to ALL T2 biologics in severe asthma

Mepolizumab



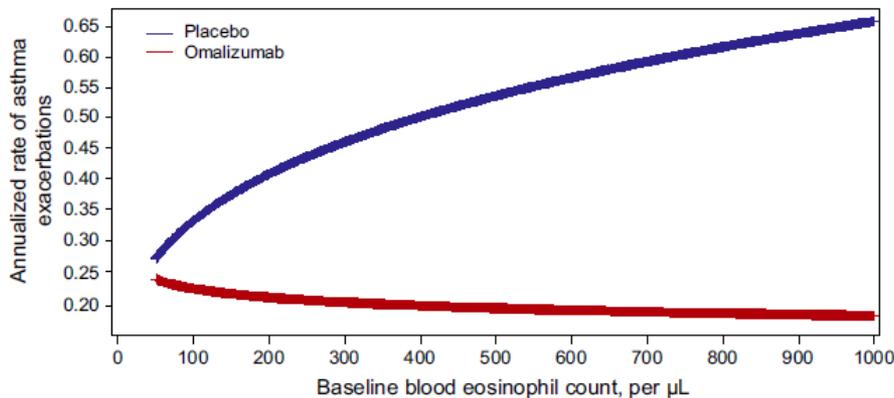
Ortega HG *et al. Lancet Respir Med.* 2016 Jul;4(7):549-556

Benralizumab



Jackson DJ, *et al. Adv Ther.* 2020 Feb;37(2):718-729

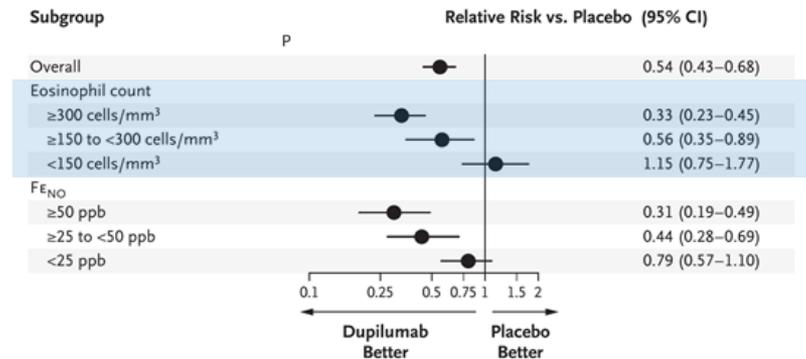
Omalizumab



Casale TB *et al. Allergy.* 2018 Feb;73(2):490-497

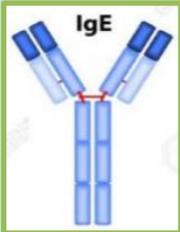
Dupilumab

B Dupilumab, 300 mg Every 2 Wk,



Castro M *et al. N Engl J Med.* 2018 Jun 28;378(26):2486-2496

Determining phenotypes based on clinical characteristics and biomarkers

Phenotype	Characteristics
<p>Allergic asthma</p> 	<p>Early-onset asthma Symptoms triggered by allergies Seasonal variations in exacerbations and degree of symptoms Associated with strong family history of asthma</p>
<p>Eosinophilic asthma</p> 	<p>Late-onset asthma Comorbid condition: severe sinus disease, nasal polyps, and aspirin sensitivity Frequent exacerbations requiring healthcare use May require oral corticosteroid maintenance therapy for symptom control</p>

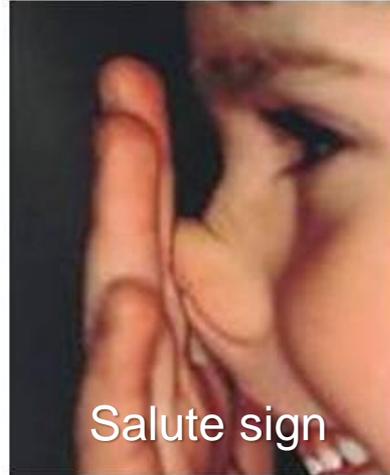
Presence of atopy

Identification by *history taking*, *appearance*, and *in vitro* assay

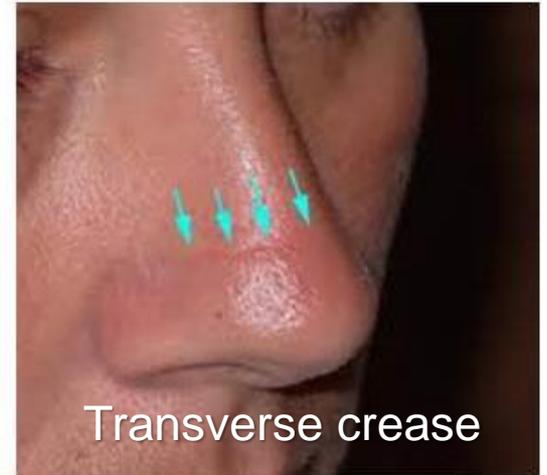
Allergic appearance



Allergic shiner



Salute sign



Transverse crease

<http://theallergist.wordpress.com>



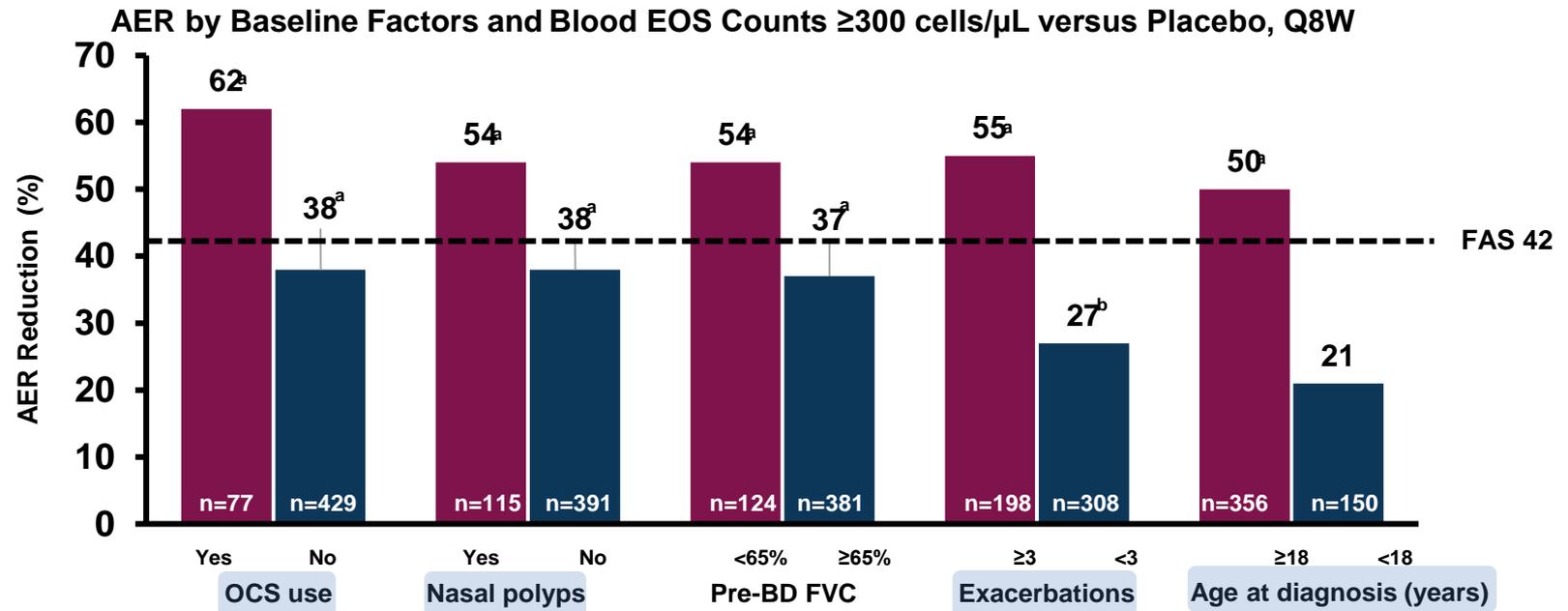
Allergic conjunctivitis



Atopic dermatitis

Better efficacy of anti-IL5 biologics in severe eosinophilic asthma with common characteristics

Exacerbation Rate Reduction by Baseline Factors and Blood EOS Counts (Pooled SIROCCO and CALIMA; High-Dosage ICS/LABA, ≥ 300 EOS)



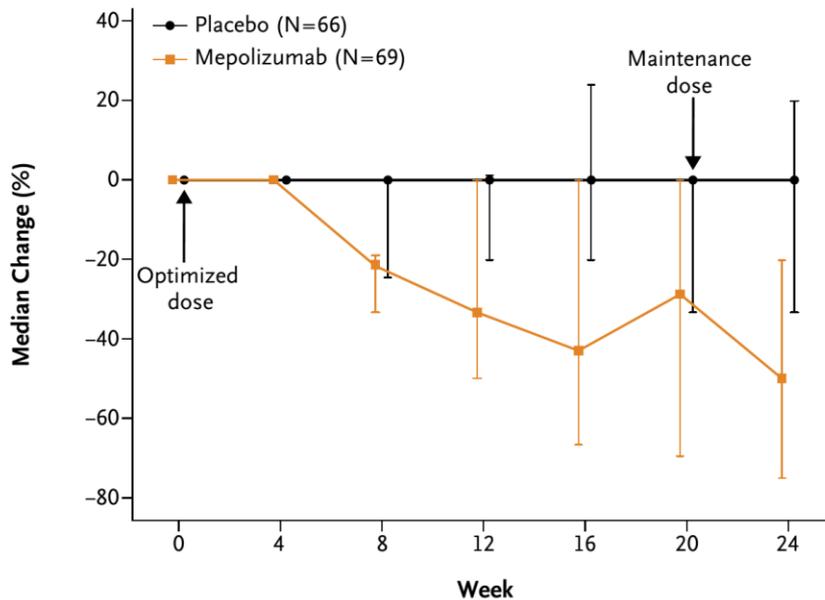
- There was an enhanced reduction in AER in patients with any key baseline characteristic and high blood EOS counts (≥ 300 cells/ μ L) relative to the FAS

Comparison of reduced OCS dose between mepolizumab and benralizumab in OCS-dependent severe asthma

Mepolizumab [SIRIUS]

Percentage reduction from baseline in the glucocorticoid dose (**50%** vs 0; $p=0.007$)

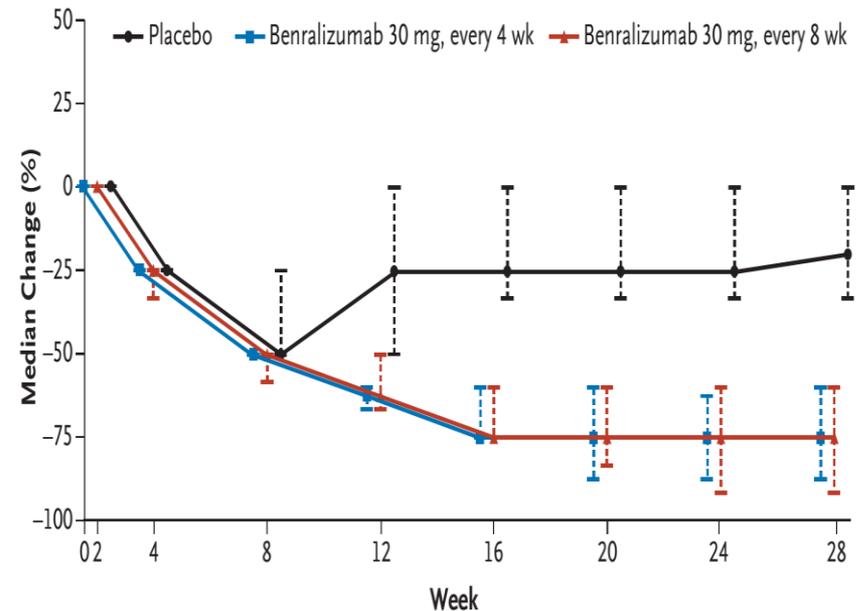
A Change from Baseline in Glucocorticoid Dose



Bel EH et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2014 Sep 25;371(13):1189-97

Benralizumab [ZONDA]

Percentage reduction from baseline in the glucocorticoid dose (**75%** vs 25%; $p<0.001$)



Nair P et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2017 Jun 22;376(25):2448-2458

Comorbidities as factors for selecting biologics for severe asthma

Patients with the following diseases may also benefit from certain biologics, independent of asthma

CRSwNP: Dupilumab, omalizumab, mepolizumab

AD: Dupilumab

CSU: Omalizumab

EGPA: Mepolizumab

HES: Mepolizumab

CRSwNP: chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps
 AD: atopic dermatitis
 CSU: chronic spontaneous urticaria
 EGPA: eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis
 HES: hyper-eosinophilic syndrome

Uncontrolled asthma symptoms or exacerbations

Confirm inhaler compliance and technique, identify and avoid triggers, treat comorbidities

Check FeNO, blood eosinophils and IgE

Corticosteroid-dependent asthma

Yes

Benralizumab
Dupilumab
Mepolizumab

No

History suggestive of allergy-driven uncontrolled asthma

Yes

Omalizumab

No

FeNO >20 ppb?

Yes

Dupilumab (if FeNO >25 ppb)
Omalizumab
Tezepelumab

No

Peripheral blood eosinophils >150 cells/mL

Yes

Benralizumab
Dupilumab
Mepolizumab
Omalizumab
Reslizumab
Tezepelumab

No

Mepolizumab (for subjects with AEC₃₀₀ ≥ 300/μL within past one year)
Tezepelumab

Predictors of response to specific biologics beyond eligible criteria

Anti-IgE (omalizumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-IgE** for severe allergic asthma?*

- Sensitization on skin prick testing or specific IgE
- Total serum IgE and weight within dosage range
- Exacerbations in last year

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-IgE?

- Blood eosinophils $\geq 260/\mu\text{l}$ ++
- FeNO ≥ 20 ppb +
- Allergen-driven symptoms +
- Childhood-onset asthma +

no
↑
no

Anti-IL5 / Anti-IL5R (benralizumab, mepolizumab, reslizumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-IL5 / anti-IL5R** for severe eosinophilic asthma?*

- Exacerbations in last year
- Blood eosinophils, e.g. $\geq 150/\mu\text{l}$ or $\geq 300/\mu\text{l}$

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-IL5/5R?

- Higher blood eosinophils +++
- More exacerbations in previous year +++
- Adult-onset of asthma ++
- Nasal polyposis ++

no
↑
no

Anti-IL4R (dupilumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-IL4R** for severe eosinophilic/Type 2 asthma?*

- Exacerbations in last year
- Blood eosinophils ≥ 150 and $\leq 1500/\mu\text{l}$, or FeNO ≥ 25 ppb, or taking maintenance OCS

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-IL4R?

- Higher blood eosinophils +++
- Higher FeNO +++

no
↑
no

Anti-TSLP (tezepelumab)

Is the patient eligible for **anti-TSLP** for severe asthma?*

- Exacerbations in last year

What factors may predict good asthma response to anti-TSLP?

- Higher blood eosinophils +++
- Higher FeNO +++

For severe asthma requiring long term regular administration of biologic agents with several choices...

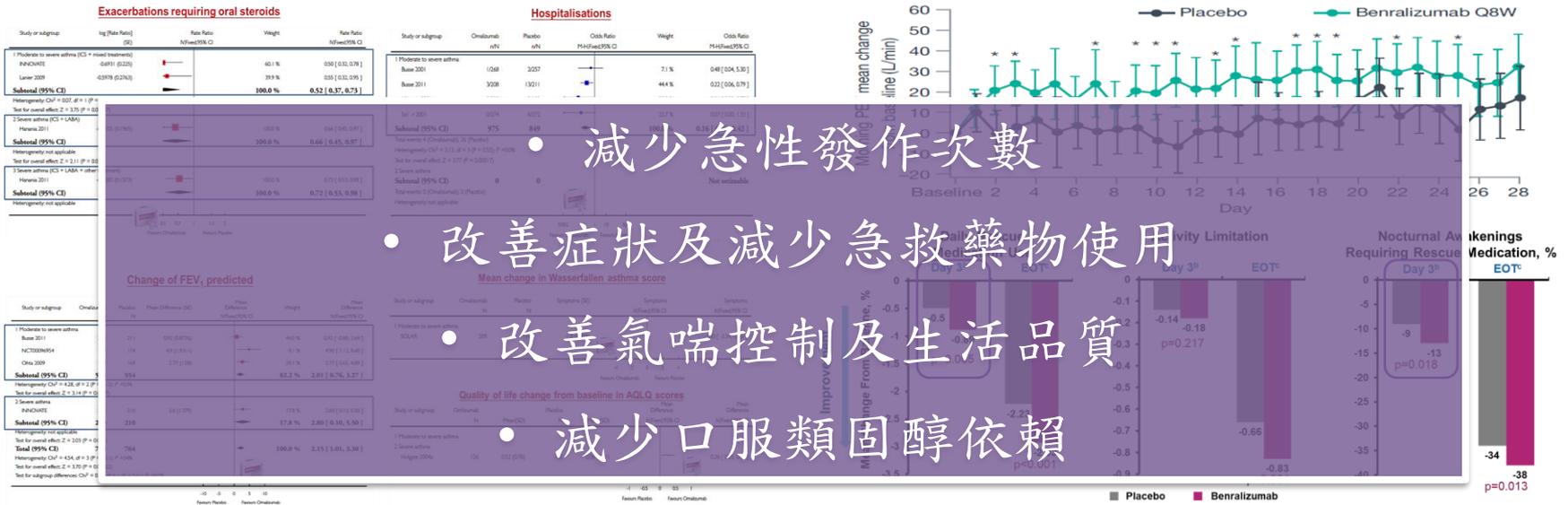
Which will be preferred?

Omalizumab: 1-4 vials sc q2w or q4w



Take home messages

綜觀生物製劑帶給嚴重氣喘病患的改善



• 減少急性發作次數

• 改善症狀及減少急救藥物使用

• 改善氣喘控制及生活品質

• 減少口服類固醇依賴

