ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Efficacy of galcanezumab in patients with episodic migraine and a history of preventive treatment failure: results from two global randomized clinical trials

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See Letter to the editor by I. -H. Huang on page e19

Keywords: Abstract episodic migraine, Background and purpose: The efficacy of galcanezumab, a monoclonal antigalcanezumab, body for migraine prevention, has been demonstrated in two pivotal trials in LY2951742, phase 3, patients with episodic migraine. preventive failure Methods: EVOLVE-1 and EVOLVE-2 were identical phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies in patients with episodic migraine. Received 22 August 2019 Mean migraine headache days per month at baseline was 9. Patients were ran-Accepted 4 November 2019 domized 2:1:1 to monthly injections of placebo, galcanezumab 120 mg/240 mg during the 6-month double-blind treatment period. Key efficacy outcomes were European Journal of assessed in subgroups amongst patients for whom, previously, for efficacy Neurology 2020, 27: 609-618 and/or safety/tolerability reasons (i) one or more (≥ 1) preventives failed, (ii) two or more (≥ 2) preventives failed and (iii) preventives were never used, or doi:10.1111/ene.14114 used but not failed (no prior failure). Results: In an integrated analysis of EVOLVE studies, galcanezumab 120 mg/240 mg versus placebo led to larger overall mean (SE) reductions in monthly migraine headache days across 6 months in patients with prior preventive failures (P < 0.001): ≥ 1 failure: 120 mg: -4.0 (0.4); 240 mg: -4.2 (0.5); placebo: -1.3 (0.4); ≥ 2 failures: 120 mg: -3.1 (0.7); 240 mg: -3.8 (0.8); placebo: -0.5 (0.6). Similar results were observed amongst patients with no prior failure, but the placebo response was larger: 120 mg: -4.7 (0.2); 240 mg: -4.5(0.2); placebo: -3.0 (0.2) (P < 0.001 versus placebo). Significant improvements were observed with galcanezumab versus placebo for $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 75\%$ reduction in monthly migraine headache days. Conclusion: In patients with episodic migraine treated with galcanezumab, those with ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior preventive failures had significantly larger improvements, versus placebo, in efficacy outcomes. Similar results were observed in patients with no prior failure, with a larger placebo response.

Introduction

According to the latest estimates from the Global Burden of Disease Study, migraine is the second highest cause of disability worldwide [1]. In the 15–49-year

age group, it is the number one cause of disability globally, accounting for 8.2% of the total years lived with disability [2]. Global estimates show that, amongst patients with \geq 4 migraine headache days per month and with \geq 1 preventive treatment failure, the burden of migraine is substantial on several aspects of daily living and healthcare resource utilization, and this increased in line with the number of preventive

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treatment failures [3]. Patients with episodic migraine experience headache <15 days a month [4]. Most commonly used preventive treatments for episodic migraine include medicines originally developed for hypertension, depression and epilepsy; these are also recommended by evidence-based guidelines [5]. Developed for other indications [6], current oral preventive treatments are associated with high discontinuation rates [7,8] that can result in many patients relying solely on acute medications to manage their disease. However, overuse of acute medications may put patients at risk of disease progression towards chronic migraine [9], with higher disability and economic burden [10,11]. Patients who have failed prior preventives for efficacy and/or safety/tolerability reasons form an important subgroup with unmet need for prevention [3] and for whom it is important to assess the efficacy of new preventives.

Galcanezumab, a humanized monoclonal antibody against calcitonin-gene-related peptide (CGRP), belongs to a novel class of injectable antibodies designed specifically for migraine prevention [12]. The efficacy and safety of monthly injections of galcanezumab in patients with episodic migraine have been demonstrated in two identically designed phase 3 randomized clinical trials (RCTs) with 6-month treatment periods (EVOLVE-1 and EVOLVE-2) [13,14]. In these studies, galcanezumab 120 mg/240 mg versus placebo significantly reduced the mean number of monthly migraine headache days. In these RCTs, more than 60% of patients had taken migraine preventives previously. Patients previously exposed to preventives, where they have not responded or had poor tolerability, have an unmet need requiring new therapies. Therefore, the objectives of this subgroup analysis were to evaluate key efficacy outcomes in a pooled analysis of EVOLVE studies amongst patients with (i) one or more (≥ 1) prior preventive failures, (ii) two or more (≥ 2) prior preventive failures and (iii) no prior preventive failures (never used or used but not failed). Failure was defined as stopping treatment for efficacy and/or safety/tolerability reasons.

Methods

Study design and patients

The study designs and inclusion/exclusion criteria of the EVOLVE-1 (NCT02614183) and EVOLVE-2 (NCT02614196) studies have been described in detail previously [13,14] and are detailed in Appendix S1. The EVOLVE studies comprised a 6-month doubleblind treatment period during which patients experiencing 4–14 migraine headache days per month were randomized 2:1:1 to receive monthly subcutaneous injections of placebo and galcanezumab 120 mg (a loading dose of 240 mg) or 240 mg. A key exclusion criterion was failure to respond for efficacy reasons over the patient's lifetime to three or more adequately dosed preventive treatments from different medication classes with level A or B evidence based on American Academy of Neurology/American Headache Society treatment guidelines [15] (details in Appendix S1). Of note, this criterion is different from the definition of treatment failures for the subgroup analyses as described subsequently.

Appropriate institutional review boards at study sites reviewed and approved study protocols. The studies were conducted per good clinical practice and Declaration of Helsinki guidelines. Patients provided written informed consent before undergoing study procedures.

Study objectives, measures and assessments

The primary objective in EVOLVE studies was to evaluate whether galcanezumab 120mg/240mg is superior versus placebo in overall mean change from baseline in the number of monthly migraine headache days during the double-blind treatment period (months 1-6). A migraine headache day was a calendar day on which migraine headache or probable migraine headache (lasting ≥ 30 min and with features meeting the International Classification of Headache Disorders, 3rd edition beta version criteria [16]) occurred. Key secondary outcomes included here are mean proportions of patients with $\geq 50\%$, $\geq 75\%$ and 100% reduction from baseline in monthly migraine headache days. Subgroup analyses of the above outcome measures were conducted for the following subgroups of patients:

- patients with one or more (≥1) prior preventive failures,
- patients with two or more (≥2) prior preventive failures and
- patients with no prior preventive failures; this included patients who had never taken a preventive previously (treatment naïve) and patients who had taken a preventive but for whom the treatment had not failed;
- patients with one prior preventive failure (results in Appendix S1).

In these analyses, the number of preventive failures refers to the number of individual medications (not medication classes) failed in the past 5 years. Migraine preventive medications taken in the past 5 years and the reasons for stopping them were collected. Failure of a prior preventive treatment was defined as cessation of treatment for efficacy ('nonresponse' or 'inadequate response') or safety/tolerability-related reasons. Definition of failure did not include need for treatment with an optimal dose or for a specific duration. The list of preventives from investigative sites was further restricted to medications identified in treatment guidelines as having been investigated for preventive use, irrespective of level of evidence [5,15]. These criteria are summarized in Appendix S1. All data reported are based on these criteria.

Statistical analyses

The full analysis set, based on the intent-to-treat principle, included all patients who received at least one dose of the study drug. Data from the EVOLVE studies were pooled for subgroup analyses. Restricted maximum likelihood based mixed models with repeated measures and generalized linear mixed models were used to conduct subgroup analyses for repeated continuous and binary measures, respectively. Overall mean change from baseline, i.e. average mean change from baseline across months 1–6, was estimated from these models. Response rates were calculated as the mean percentage of responders using a categorical, pseudo-likelihood-based repeated-measures analysis assessing overall response rate across months 1-6. Treatment-by-subgroup interactions were included in all models.

Results

Baseline demographics and disease characteristics

Patient disposition, baseline demographics and disease characteristics for individual studies have been described in detail previously [13,14]; Table 1 provides a summary by number of prior failures from the integrated analysis set. Table 2 shows the distribution of patients by the number of prior treatment failures. A majority of preventive treatment failures for any reason were for topiramate followed by propranolol and amitriptyline (Table 3). Across the two studies, the most common reason for failure was efficacy.

Reductions in monthly migraine headache days

In an integrated analysis of EVOLVE studies, amongst patients who failed ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior preventives, treatment with galcanezumab 120 mg/240 mg versus placebo led to significantly (P < 0.001) larger overall reductions from baseline in monthly migraine headache days over the 6-month period. Least squares (LS) mean change (standard error, SE) in prior failure subgroups were as follows: ≥ 1 prior failure: galcanezumab 120 mg: -4.04 (0.43); galcanezumab

	Population by number of prior failures	PBO N = 894	GMB 120 mg N = 444	GMB 240 mg N = 435	Overall $N = 1773$
n (%)	0	672 (75.2)	316 (71.2)	331 (76.1)	1319 (74.4)
	≥ 1	222 (24.8)	128 (28.8	104 (23.9)	454 (25.6)
	≥ 2	92 (10.3)	51 (11.5)	45 (10.3)	188 (10.6)
Age, years, mean (SD)	0	41.8 (11.5)	40.1 (11.7)	40.1 (11.4)	41.0 (11.5)
	≥ 1	42.0 (10.9)	42.9 (10.9)	41.9 (10.6)	42.3 (10.8)
	≥2	43.8 (10.2)	43.0 (11.6)	43.8 (9.9)	43.6 (10.5)
Gender (female), %	0	82.9	82.6	81.9	82.6
	≥ 1	89.2	91.4	91.4	90.3
	≥ 2	88.0	90.2	86.7	88.3
Duration of migraine disease, years, mean (SD)	0	20.3 (12.3)	19.6 (12.2)	19.0 (11.6)	19.8 (12.1)
	≥ 1	21.3 (13.2)	22.9 (12.5)	21.8 (13.1)	21.8 (13)
	≥ 2	22.9 (13.6)	22.5 (12.9)	24.8 (13.7)	23.2 (13.4)
Migraine headache days per month, mean (SD)	0	9.1 (3.0)	9.0 (3.0)	9.0 (2.9)	9.1 (3.0)
	≥ 1	9.2 (2.9)	9.5 (2.8)	9.4 (2.9)	9.3 (2.8)
	≥2	9.1 (3.0)	9.3 (2.8)	9.9 (2.8)	9.3 (2.9)
Migraine headache days per month with acute	0	7.4 (3.5)	7.2 (3.5)	7.3 (3.3)	7.3 (3.5)
medication use, mean (SD)	≥ 1	7.8 (3.2)	8.0 (3.5)	7.9 (3.1)	7.9 (3.3)
	≥ 2	7.6 (3.4)	8.2 (3.3)	8.3 (3.1)	7.9 (3.3)
MSQ RF-R, mean (SD) ^a	0	52.8 (15.6)	52.8 (15.4)	49.7 (17.1)	52.0 (16.0)
	≥ 1	50.1 (15.5)	49.8 (15.4)	52.1 (14.8)	50.5 (15.3)
	≥2	49.7 (15.2)	51.9 (14.5)	55.1 (14.9)	51.6 (15.0)

Table 1 Patient demographics and baseline disease characteristics, and distribution of patients by number of prior treatment failures

GMB, galcanezumab; MSQ RF-R, Role Function-Restrictive domain score of the Migraine-Specific Quality of Life Questionnaire version 2.1; PBO, placebo. ^aFor MSQ RF-R domain scores: PBO, N = 887; GMB 120 mg, N = 443; GMB 240 mg, N = 430; total population 1760.

	PBO $N = 894$	GMB 120 mg N = 444	GMB 240 mg N = 435	Overall $N = 1773$
Prior preventive treatment, %	62.1	65.3	61.8	62.8
Failure of ≥ 1 medication	24.8	28.8	23.9	25.6
Failure of ≥ 2 medications	10.3	11.5	10.3	10.6
Failure of ≥ 2 medication classes	8.6	10.8	9.2	9.3
Failure of ≥ 3 medications	4.0	6.8	4.1	4.7
Failure of ≥ 3 medication classes	3.1	6.3	3.0	3.9

Table 2 Distribution of patients by number of prior treatment failures in EVOLVE studies

GMB, galcanezumab; PBO, placebo.

240 mg: -4.21 (0.46); placebo: -1.30 (0.37); ≥ 2 prior failures: galcanezumab 120 mg: -3.06 (0.74); galcanezumab 240 mg: -3.83 (0.80); placebo: -0.46 (0.64) (Fig. 1a, b). Similar results were observed in patients with no prior failures but the placebo

response was larger [LS mean change (SE): galcanezumab 120 mg: -4.72 (0.24); galcanezumab 240 mg: -4.46 (0.23); placebo: -3.02 (0.20); Fig. 1c]. In all three subgroups, treatment with galcanezumab 120 mg/240 mg versus placebo led to significantly

Table 3 Reasons for discontinuation of previous migraine prevention therapy in patients with ≥ 1 prior preventive failure in EVOLVE studies (N = 453)

	Inadequate efficacyn (%)	No efficacyn (%)	Safety/tolerabilityn (%)	Overalln (%)
Antiepileptic	199 (43.9)	54 (11.9)	46 (10.2)	280 (61.8)
Topiramate	181 (40.0)	39 (8.6)	32 (7.1)	246 (54.3)
Valproate	28 (6.2)	10 (2.2)	12 (2.6)	49 (10.8)
Gabapentin	8 (1.8)	4 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	12 (2.6)
Zonisamide	4 (0.9)	3 (0.7)	3 (0.7)	10 (2.2)
Pregabalin	1 (0.2)	3 (0.7)	3 (0.7)	6 (1.3)
Ergenyl [®] chrono	2 (0.4)	1 (0.2)	2 (0.4)	5 (1.1)
Beta blocker	95 (21.0)	32 (7.1)	19 (4.2)	145 (32.0)
Propranolol	64 (14.1)	16 (3.5)	14 (3.1)	94 (20.8)
Metoprolol	15 (3.3)	9 (2.0)	6 (1.3)	30 (6.6)
Nadolol	9 (2.0)	4 (0.9)	1 (0.2)	14 (3.1)
Antidepressant	100 (22.1)	25 (5.5)	25 (5.5)	140 (30.9)
Amitriptyline	67 (14.8)	16 (3.5)	12 (2.6)	92 (20.3)
Nortriptyline	16 (3.5)	4 (0.9)	1 (0.2)	21 (4.6)
Venlafaxine	7 (1.5)	2 (0.4)	6 (1.3)	15 (3.3)
Duloxetine	2 (0.4)	3 (0.7)	2 (0.4)	6 (1.3)
Escitalopram	2 (0.4)	1 (0.2)	3 (0.7)	6 (1.3)
Calcium channel blocker	26 (5.7)	13 (2.9)	10 (2.2)	48 (10.6)
Flunarizine	19 (4.2)	9 (2.0)	8 (1.8)	35 (7.7)
Verapamil	3 (0.7)	3 (0.7)	1 (0.2)	7 (1.5)
Botulinum toxin type A	16 (3.5)	16 (3.5)	0	31 (6.8)
Angiotensin II antagonists	10 (2.2)	6 (1.3)	2 (0.4)	18 (4.0)
Supplements	16 (3.5)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	17 (3.8)
Magnesium	9 (2.0)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	10 (2.2)
Riboflavin	5 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (1.1)
Antihistamines	9 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.7)	12 (2.6)
Pizotifen	9 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.7)	12 (2.6)
Muscle relaxant	6 (1.3)	2 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	8 (1.8)
Tizanidine	5 (1.1)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.3)
NSAIDs	3 (0.7)	3 (0.7)	1 (0.2)	7 (1.5)
Antipsychotic	2 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.4)
ACE inhibitors	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)
Ergot alkaloids	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)
Triptan	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)

ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. A full list of drugs with reasons for failure is presented in Appendix S1. Individual medications included here are those that were failed by >1% of patients for efficacy and/or safety/tolerability reasons. Medications identified in the treatment guidelines as having been investigated for preventive use [5,15] were used to restrict the list of preventives reported by the investigative sites.



LS mean change difference (SE) between galcanezumab doses and placebo is shown. ***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05 vs. placebo. GMB, galcanezumab; LS, least squares; mo, month; N, number of patients with non-missing baseline value and at least one post-baseline value; SD, standard deviation; SE, standard error.

Figure 1 Monthly and overall LS mean changes from baseline in the number of migraine headache days per month during the treatment period. [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

(P < 0.05) larger reductions from baseline in the number of monthly migraine headache days in each month (months 1–6) of the treatment period (Fig. 1a–c).

Differences in overall reductions in migraine headache days between galcanezumab dose groups and placebo during the 6-month period were larger in patients with prior failures (≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior failures) versus patients with no prior failures (Fig. 1). A larger placebo response in patients with no prior failure appeared to drive the smaller differences in this subgroup. Subgroup-by-treatment interactions were significant (P < 0.05) for both galcanezumab doses versus placebo for comparison of the subgroup with ≥ 1 prior failure versus no prior failure. This interaction was significant only for galcanezumab 240 mg versus placebo for comparison of the subgroup with ≥ 2 prior failures versus no prior failure.

Percentage of \geq 50% and \geq 75% responders for migraine headache days

Among patients with ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior preventive failures, significantly (P < 0.001) greater mean proportions of patients achieved $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 75\%$ reduction in monthly migraine headache days on an average month in the galcanezumab dose groups versus placebo (Figs 2 and 3). At months 3 and 6, the estimated

proportions of patients with $\geq 50\%$ or $\geq 75\%$ response were significantly (P < 0.01) greater with galcanezumab doses versus placebo. Similar results were observed in the subgroup with no prior failure (P < 0.001, galcanezumab versus placebo); however, there was a larger placebo response in this subgroup (Figs 2 and 3). For 100% response, the analysis model did not converge due to the small number of patients with 100% response.

Other outcomes and results

Similar results were observed amongst patients with ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior preventive failures and with no prior failure for reductions in migraine headache days with



Average month is a 30-day period within the 6-month treatment period. ***p<0.001, **p<0.01 (vs. placebo). Cl, confidence interval; GMB, galcanezumab; OR, odds ratio; PBO, placebo; N, number of patients with non-missing baseline value and at least one post-baseline value; SE, standard error.

Figure 2 Mean percentage of patients with \geq 50% reduction from baseline in monthly migraine headache days. [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]



	OR (95% CI)		
	120 mg vs PBO	240 mg vs PBO	
Month 3	6.07 (2.24, 16.41)	8.05 (2.94, 22.04)	
Month 6	5.50 (2.12, 14.27)	4.19 (1.54, 11.44)	
Overall	5.20 (2.64, 10.24)	6.65 (3.35, 13.21)	

GMB 240 mg



	OR (95% CI)			
	120 mg vs PBO	240 mg vs PBO		
Month 3	2.94 (1.68, 5.16)	3.42 (1.91, 6.12)		
Month 6	3.92 (2.26, 6.81)	3.04 (1.68, 5.50)		
Overall	3.84 (2.55, 5.78)	4.37 (2.86, 6.68)		



	OR (95% CI)		
	120 mg vs PBO	240 mg vs PBO	
Month 3	1.92 (1.41, 2.61)	1.87 (1.38, 2.53)	
Month 6	2.06 (1.52, 2.79)	2.18 (1.62, 2.94)	
Overall	2.26 (1.82, 2.80)	2.17 (1.75, 2.69)	

308 540 Month 3

Month 6 On an Average Month



Figure 3 Mean percentage of patients with ≥75% reduction from baseline in monthly migraine headache days. [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

acute medication use and improvements in patient functioning per the Role Function-Restrictive domain score of the Migraine-Specific Quality of Life Questionnaire version 2.1 (MSQ-RFR) (Appendix S1). Results in the subgroup of patients with one prior failure were consistent with results observed in the subgroups with ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior failures across outcomes (Appendix S1).

Discussion

Results from this subgroup analysis demonstrate that galcanezumab 120 and 240 mg versus placebo is

efficacious across multiple end-points in patients with episodic migraine irrespective of their history of ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior preventive failures for efficacy and/or safety/ tolerability reasons. A large proportion of patients (25.6%) had ≥ 1 prior preventive failure; this is consistent with the high discontinuation rates associated with the current standard of care [7,15,16]. During the 6-month treatment period, patients with ≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior failures experienced significantly greater overall reductions in the number of migraine headache days per month, and $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 75\%$ response rates with galcanezumab versus placebo. These improvements were also consistently observed in the subgroup with

(c) No prior preventive failures

no prior failures, although the reductions versus placebo were lower. In all three subgroups, significant reductions in migraine headache days were observed with both galcanezumab doses versus placebo at each month of the 6-month period.

Findings from this subgroup analysis are important given the recently published European Headache Federation and American Headache Society treatment guidelines that recommend initiating treatments targeting the CGRP pathway when multiple criteria are met, including the inability to tolerate or an inadequate response to at least two common oral preventives [16,17]. Results from the overall populations in phase 3 RCTs targeting the CGRP pathway demonstrated efficacy and safety/tolerability in a broader population with migraine; however, the guidelines noted the need for cost-effective care and therefore restricted access. The study population herein consisted of patients who met the headache frequency and moderate disability thresholds described in the guidelines. Therefore, these results will be valuable for prescribing physicians and healthcare policy makers who want to understand efficacy outcomes in the population with episodic migraine with at least one or at least two prior preventive treatment failures. The EVOLVE studies excluded adequately dosed non-responders, for efficacy reasons, to ≥ 3 different preventive medication classes with level A or B evidence [15]. However, as failure in daily practice includes intolerability issues, our analysis was able to include patients who failed at least three preventive treatments as well.

Differences in responses to all outcomes between galcanezumab and placebo were larger in the prior preventive failure subgroups (≥ 1 or ≥ 2 prior failures) compared to the subgroup with no prior preventive failures. These results are consistent with findings from phase 3 studies of erenumab (a monoclonal antibody against CGRP receptor) in patients with episodic migraine [18,19], a phase 3 study of fremenezumab (a monoclonal antibody to CGRP [20]) and recently presented prospective data with galcanezumab [21]. In this subgroup analysis and in erenumab studies, larger differences in patients with prior failure appear to be driven by the lower placebo response in this subgroup. When entering an RCT, patients with prior failures may have lower expectations from the study drug than patients who have never received prior preventives or have received but not failed previously [22,23]. This subgroup analysis was not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the galcanezumab doses. However, there were no notable differences between galcanezumab dose groups for any of the outcome measures across subgroups, which is consistent with results seen in overall populations [13,14].

Overall mean changes from baseline in monthly migraine headache days (months 1–6) amongst galcanezumab-treated patients were similar across the overall population [13,14] and in the subgroups presented here. This demonstrates the fairly consistent nature of the results for the primary outcome across the overall population and in patients with various histories of preventive failure. Similarly, comparable results were noted for the secondary outcome measures discussed here. These results are also similar to those reported with erenumab 140 mg in a phase 3b study in patients with episodic migraine and 2–4 prior failures [18] the latter data being consistent with a phase 3 study of erenumab 70/140 mg in patients with episodic migraine over months 4–6 [19,24].

In this subgroup analysis, in patients with various histories of preventive failure, proportions of patients achieving $\geq 75\%$ overall reduction in migraine head-ache days were significantly greater versus placebo. In patients with episodic migraine, $\geq 50\%$ reduction in monthly migraine headache days is recognized as being clinically meaningful [25]. Evaluating clinical meaningfulness is important, considering that many patients with migraine demonstrate inadequate response to current preventive therapies and/or experience intolerable side effects, thereby making it difficult for them to remain on medication long enough to receive sufficient and sustained therapeutic benefit.

The strengths of this subgroup analysis in patients with episodic migraine include that these are findings from two large, global, multi-centre, phase 3 RCTs. Failure of prior preventives within subgroups was based on multiple reasons related to both efficacy and safety/tolerability with inadequate or no response being the most common reasons. The list of medications associated with prior failure was restricted to medications identified in treatment guidelines as having been investigated for preventive use. Efficacy in subgroups was demonstrated not only for migraine frequency-related end-points but also for other outcomes. Further, the results are consistent with those in the overall population and in patients with one prior failure. Limitations include that the sample sizes of the subgroups presented here are limited. The definition of failure in the subgroups had no adequate dose or duration requirement. Moreover, patients with failures of ≥ 3 preventive classes (level A or B evidence, adequate dose) over their lifetime were excluded from studies. A study designed specifically to examine the effects of galcanezumab in patients with episodic or chronic migraine with 2-4 prior preventive failures (NCT03559257) [21] may address this.

In conclusion, the findings of this subgroup analysis in patients with episodic migraine are clinically relevant considering that the subgroups chosen here are consistent with the expected target population for galcanezumab based on current treatment guidelines. Galcanezumab with its mechanism of action targeting the pathophysiology of migraine and favourable efficacy may offer an effective treatment option for patients with episodic migraine who have failed prior preventives.

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Disclosure of conflicts of interest

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Supporting Information

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

Appendix S1. Methods.

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