



ERS

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2021

v i r t u a l

## Late Breaking Abstract - Durable clinical benefit of benralizumab following oral corticosteroid reduction: The PONENTE study

A. Menzies-Gow (London, United Kingdom), M. Gurnell (Cambridge, United Kingdom), L. Heaney (Belfast, United Kingdom), J. Corren (Los Angeles, United States of America), E. Bel (Amsterdam, Netherlands), J. Maspero (Buenos Aires, Argentina), T. Harrison (Nottingham, United Kingdom), D. Jackson (London, United Kingdom), D. Price (Singapore, Singapore), N. Lugogo (Ann Arbor, United States of America), J. Kreindler (Wilmington, United States of America), A. Burden (Cambridge, United Kingdom), A. De Giorgio-Miller (Luton, United Kingdom), K. Padilla (Durham, United States of America), U. Martin (Gaithersburg, United States of America), E. Garcia Gil (Barcelona, Spain)

### Introduction

Oral corticosteroid (OCS) dependence is common in severe eosinophilic asthma leading to adverse health outcomes. PONENTE evaluated the ability of patients to reduce or eliminate maintenance OCS during a variable, personalized OCS-reduction phase based on initial OCS dosage, asthma control, and adrenal status after starting benralizumab and to then maintain clinical stability over a 24- to 32-week maintenance phase.

### Aim

The maintenance phase assessed OCS dosage reduction durability along with asthma exacerbations, asthma control (Asthma Control Questionnaire [ACQ-6]), and asthma-related quality of life (QOL; St. George's Respiratory Questionnaire [SGRQ]).

### Methods

Adult patients continued the lowest stable daily OCS dosage or OCS elimination achieved during the reduction phase plus benralizumab 30 mg every 8 weeks for 3 doses. Changes in OCS dosage and asthma control were measured from the end of the reduction phase and changes in QOL from baseline.

### Results

Of 598 patients who entered PONENTE, 90% completed both the OCS-reduction and maintenance phases. During the maintenance phase, no change in median OCS dosage (0 mg) was observed and only 3% (18/593) of patients who started the reduction phase increased maintenance OCS dosage. Most patients had an improvement (18%) or no change (39%) in ACQ-6 and were exacerbation free (85%). The adjusted mean change from baseline in SGRQ total score was -19.7 units, exceeding the threshold for clinically important improvement in health-related QOL.

### Conclusions

In the PONENTE study, benralizumab led to sustained OCS dosage reductions over the 6-month maintenance phase without loss of asthma control and with a substantial improvement in QOL.

