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Full-length article

Running head: Long-term voclosporin treatment for lupus nephritis

Title: Safety and efficacy of long-term voclosporin treatment for lupus nephritis in the Phase 3 AURORA 2 clinical trial.

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This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process which may lead to differences between this version and the Version of Record. Please cite this article as doi: 10.1002/art.42657

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Grants or other financial supporters of the study: This study was funded by Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc.

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Conflicts of Interest: **AS** reports payments for Aurinia speaker bureaus; primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials; advisory fees from Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, and Kezar Life Sciences. **EG** reports clinical trial payments to institution from Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, and Kezar Life Sciences; primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials; clinical trial adjudicator for Abbvie; lecture honoraria from Johns Hopkins University. **KG** reports grants or contracts from Retrophin (Tavere); participation in clinical trials of Aurinia, Retrophin and Reata and is treasurer for the American Society of

Nephrology. **BS** reports primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials. **AEZS** reports primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials. **OL** reports primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials. **SN** reports primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials, grants or contracts from Eli Lilly, Novartis, Idorsia, Biogen, (Human Genome Sciences) GlaxoSmithKline (Human Genome Sciences), consulting fees from Roche (Globo Asiatico), payment from Astellas Pharma, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline, travel support for meetings from Pfizer, participation on an Independent Safety Monitoring Board for Biogen and an unpaid position on the Rheumatology Educational Trust Foundation, Inc. **TA** reports payment or honoraria from Gilead, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, Chugai, Astellas Pharma, Takeda, Pfizer, AbbVie, Eisai, Daiichi Sankyo, Bristol Myers Squibb, UCB Japan, Eli Lilly Japan, Otsuka Pharmaceuticals and Alexion Pharmaceuticals; primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials. **SY** reports grants from Asahi Kasei and Chugai Pharmaceuticals, and honoraria from Asahi Kasei and Chugai Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline, Astellas Pharma and AstraZeneca. **NNCP** reports primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials. **CA** reports grants or contracts from Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca and Exagen; consulting or advisory fees from Aurinia, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Kezar Life Sciences; primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials. **SVP** reports grants or contracts from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, EMD Serono and Aurinia; primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials; consulting fees from Aurinia, GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol Myers Squibb, Kezar Life Sciences and Alexion Pharmaceuticals. **DC** reports consultancy agreements from Retrophin and GlaxoSmithKline; research funding (NIH K08 1K08DK102542); primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials; participant in industry sponsored clinical trials for Mallinckrodt, Aurinia, Calliditas, and Retrophin; and Scientific Advisor or Membership for the Lupus Foundation of America Medical Scientific Advisory Counsel. **LL and VB** are employees and

stockholders of Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc. **SR and RBH** were employees and stockholders of Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc. at the time of study. **YKOT** reports research grants from commercial organizations including an unrestricted research grant from GlaxoSmithKline and Aurinia; primary investigator for Aurinia clinical trials; consultancy fees paid to institution from Aurinia, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline, Kezar Life Sciences, Vifor Pharma and Otsuka Pharmaceuticals.

Abstract

Objective: AURORA 2 evaluated the long-term safety, tolerability, and efficacy of voclosporin compared to placebo in patients with lupus nephritis (LN) receiving an additional two years of treatment following completion of the one-year AURORA 1 study.

Methods: Enrolled patients continued their double-blinded treatment of voclosporin or placebo randomly assigned in AURORA 1, in combination with mycophenolate mofetil and low-dose glucocorticoids. The primary objective was safety assessed with adverse events (AEs), biochemical and hematological assessments. Efficacy was measured by renal response.

Results: 216 patients enrolled in AURORA 2. Treatment was well tolerated with 86.1% completing the study and no unexpected safety signals. Adverse events occurred in 86% and 80% of patients in the voclosporin and control groups, respectively, with an AE profile similar to that seen in AURORA 1, albeit with reduced frequency. Investigator reported AEs of both GFR decrease and hypertension occurred more frequently in the voclosporin than control group (10.3% vs 5.0%, and 8.6% vs 7.0%, respectively). Mean corrected estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was within the normal range and stable in both treatment groups. eGFR slope over the two-year period was -0.2 ml/min/1.73 m^2 (95% CI -3.0, 2.7) in the voclosporin and -5.4 ml/min/1.73 m^2 (95% CI -8.4, -2.3) in the control group. Improved proteinuria persisted across three years of treatment leading to more frequent complete renal responses in voclosporin-treated patients (50.9% vs 39.0%; odds ratio 1.74; 95% CI 1.00, 3.03).

Conclusion: Data demonstrate the safety and efficacy of long-term voclosporin treatment over 3 years of follow-up in patients with LN.

Introduction

Lupus nephritis (LN) occurs in up to 50% of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (1, 2). Compared to the general population, mortality risk is increased 6- to 9-fold in patients with LN and 14- to 26-fold in SLE with renal damage; thus, improved disease management to slow or stop progression to end-stage kidney disease is essential (3, 4). Proteinuria is a defining characteristic of chronic kidney disease and is independently associated with increased risk of mortality, myocardial infarction, and progression to kidney failure (5, 6). Unsurprisingly, reductions in proteinuria are associated with improved long-term outcomes. LN treatment guidelines recommend a target proteinuria level <0.5-0.7 g/24 hours and allow a window in the first year of treatment to achieve this. Early proteinuria reductions remain challenging with current immunomodulatory therapies (5, 7).

Voclosporin is a novel calcineurin inhibitor (CNI) approved in the United States, and more recently in Europe, for the treatment of adult patients with active LN in combination with background immunosuppression. Voclosporin is associated with a favorable metabolic profile with regard to lipids and glucose, and a predictable pharmacokinetic profile resulting in no need for the therapeutic drug monitoring required of other CNIs (8-11). In AURORA 1, a 12-month, phase 3, double-blind, randomized-controlled pivotal study, the efficacy and safety of voclosporin was compared with placebo in achieving complete renal response (CRR) in patients with LN. AURORA 1 demonstrated the clinical superiority of voclosporin with mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and low-dose glucocorticoids compared to MMF and low-dose glucocorticoids alone. Significantly more patients in the voclosporin group achieved a CRR at 52 weeks of treatment significantly faster than those in the control group (12). The safety profile in AURORA 1 was comparable between treatment groups, in line with previous studies and no new safety concerns were observed (8, 13-15).

The primary objective of AURORA 2 was to expand understanding on the safety of voclosporin, addressing questions on longer-term CNI effects, following the consistent efficacy demonstrated in earlier studies for the treatment of LN (8, 12).

We present results from the continued double-blind, phase 3 study, AURORA 2, assessing long-term safety and tolerability of voclosporin compared with placebo in patients with LN receiving an additional 24 months of treatment following completion of AURORA 1. Together, AURORA 1 and 2 represent the largest placebo-controlled clinical program evaluating a CNI-based treatment regimen for LN and the longest, as the only clinical trial to include three years of continuous LN treatment in combination with MMF and low-dose glucocorticoids.

Patients and Methods

Trial design

AURORA 2 (EudraCT 2016-004046-28, Clinicaltrials.gov NCT03597464) was a phase 3, international, multicenter, double-blind, 24-month continuation study enrolling patients that completed 12 months of treatment in AURORA 1. This study complied with the International Council for Harmonisation Good Clinical Practice guidelines and the Declaration of Helsinki. The trial was conducted at 100 sites in 24 countries in North America, Latin America, Europe, South Africa, and Asia. The protocol was approved by the institutional review board or independent ethics committee at each trial site; all participants provided informed consent (**Supplementary Methods**).

Patient entry criteria

Main inclusion criteria for AURORA 2 were provision of written informed consent, completion of study treatment in AURORA 1 and, in the opinion of the investigator, requiring continued immunosuppressive therapy.

Procedures

Patients enrolled in AURORA 2 continued to receive the same double-blind study treatment assigned by randomization in AURORA 1. Patient disposition details from AURORA 1 and 2 can be found in **Supplementary Figure S1**. Patients, investigators, and Sponsor remained masked to the randomization assignment. Patients received study drug (voclosporin or matching placebo) at the same dose used at the end of AURORA 1 for an additional 24 months (up to Month 36) in AURORA 2. Study drug dose modifications were allowed in AURORA 2 per Investigator discretion. The protocol provided guidance to interrupt or reduce study drug for any patient with >30% decrease in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) or in the case of blood pressure, outside of acceptable limits (**Supplementary Methods**). All patients continued to receive background standard of care with MMF and glucocorticoids at the same doses used at the end of AURORA 1 (12).

Outcomes

The primary objective of AURORA 2 was to assess the long-term safety and tolerability of voclosporin compared with placebo in patients with LN that completed one year of treatment in AURORA 1. Evaluation of safety included assessments of adverse events (AEs) and biochemical and hematological laboratory assessments during the study. An Independent Data and Safety Monitoring Board provided ongoing safety data review. Efficacy was assessed by achievement of CRR and partial renal response (PRR), good renal outcome, renal and non-renal flare, and changes in urine protein creatinine ratio (UPCR), eGFR and serum creatinine (sCr).

Statistical analysis

Safety and efficacy analyses included all patients enrolled in AURORA 2. Analyses include data available from the pretreatment baseline of AURORA 1 (i.e., last value before patient

received first dose of study drug on Day 1 of AURORA 1) to end of follow-up in AURORA 2, including a safety visit at four weeks after study drug (voclosporin or placebo) discontinuation i.e., up to a total of 37 months follow-up inclusive of 12 months in AURORA 1 and 25 months in AURORA 2.

Laboratory values and vital signs were summarized monthly. Adverse events were reported using Preferred Terms (PT), based on investigator clinical judgement and discretion, aggregated by System Organ Class (SOC), and coded using Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA) Version 20.0.

Efficacy was analyzed using a logistic regression model and had terms for treatment, pretreatment baseline UPCR, biopsy class, MMF use at pretreatment baseline and region. CRR was defined as UPCR of ≤0.5 mg/mg, eGFR ≥60 ml/min/1.73 m^2 or no confirmed decrease from pretreatment baseline in eGFR of >20 ml/min/1.73 m^2, received no rescue medication received for LN, and received no more than 10 mg prednisone for ≥3 consecutive days or for ≥7 days in total during the eight weeks prior to endpoint assessment. PRR was defined as a ≥50% reduction in UPCR from AURORA 1 pretreatment baseline. Patients withdrawing early from the study were counted as non-responders in the assessment of CRR and PRR. Good renal outcome was defined based on achievement of an adequate response and without renal flare. Adequate response was considered a sustained UPCR reduction ≤0.7 mg/mg, adjudicated by the blinded Clinical Endpoints Committee (CEC). Renal flares were analyzed in patients who achieved an adequate response and defined as an increase to UPCR >1 mg/mg from a post-response UPCR of <0.2 mg/mg or an increase to UPCR >2 mg/mg from a post-response UPCR of 0.2 to 1.0 mg/mg, adjudicated by the blinded CEC. Non-renal flares were defined based on AEs, laboratory abnormalities and/or any other information presented, adjudicated by the blinded CEC. Confirmed laboratory eGFR decrease ≥30% from AURORA 1 pretreatment baseline was confirmed by two consecutive study visits;

pretreatment baseline was defined as the last value before patient received first dose of study drug on Day 1 of AURORA 1.

Results are expressed as an odds ratio (OR) and associated two-sided 95% confidence interval (CI) for voclosporin compared to control. For CRR and PRR, OR > 1 indicates benefit of voclosporin treatment; for good renal outcome, renal flare, and non-renal flare, an OR < 1 indicates benefit of voclosporin treatment.

Change from pretreatment baseline (AURORA 1 baseline) analyses used a Mixed Effect Model Repeated Measures (MMRM) analysis. eGFR analyses used a corrected eGFR with all eGFR values higher than 90 ml/min/1.73 m^2 constrained to 90 ml/min/1.73 m^2.

For the purposes of this continuation study, no additional power or sample size calculations were performed. Details of the original power calculation performed for AURORA 1 have been reported previously (see **Supplementary Methods**) (12).

Results

Trial population

Of the 357 patients enrolled in AURORA 1, 255 completed treatment and were eligible for enrolment in AURORA 2. Between September 2019 and October 2021, 216 of the 255 treatment completers (84.7%) enrolled into AURORA 2; 116 in the voclosporin and 100 in control group. Of these, 101 in the voclosporin and 85 in the control group completed the study (**Supplementary Figure S1**). Pretreatment baseline clinical characteristics and demographics were generally balanced between treatment groups except for an increased proportion of Black patients in the voclosporin group (15.5% voclosporin; 7.0% control). Pretreatment baseline corrected mean eGFR was similar between groups (79.0 ml/min/1.73 m^2 voclosporin; 78.7 ml/min/1.73 m^2 control) (**Table 1**).

In AURORA 2, patients continued on the same dose of study drug used at the end of AURORA 1; the majority (78.4% voclosporin; 90.0% control) were receiving 23.7 mg twice daily (BID) voclosporin or equivalent placebo. At the end of AURORA 2, 49.1% of the voclosporin and 64.0% of the control group were receiving 23.7 mg BID of voclosporin or equivalent placebo (**Supplementary Table S1**). Study drug dose changes decreased over time; the majority of patients on a lowered dose at end of study, including more patients in the voclosporin arm, underwent dose changes due to changes in eGFR (**Supplementary Tables S2 & S3**). Exposure to MMF was similar between groups (mean daily dose of 1.9 g per day [standard deviation (SD) 0.4] in both groups). The majority of patients (>75%) in both groups at the end of AURORA 2 maintained glucocorticoid tapering throughout and were receiving prednisone (or equivalent) doses ≤2.5 mg/day (**Supplementary Table S4**).

Safety

Voclosporin was well tolerated over three years with no new or unexpected safety signals. In the AURORA 2 study period, the proportion of patients experiencing AEs was comparable between groups (86.2% in the voclosporin group; 80.0% in the control group), as was the incidence of serious AEs (SAEs) (18.1% in the voclosporin group; and 23.0% in the control group). The overall profile of AEs in the AURORA 2 treatment period was similar to that in the first year of treatment in AURORA 1; however, the frequency of AEs reduced each year. Of patients with AEs in AURORA 2, most (86.0% voclosporin; 81.3% control) had AEs that were mild or moderate in severity. Study drug discontinuation due to AEs occurred in 9.5% of the voclosporin and 17.0% of the control group.

Overall, across three years of treatment, infections were the most common type of AE by SOC (69.8% voclosporin; 72.0% control) with low rates of serious infections in both groups (12.9% voclosporin, 17.0% control) (**Table 2**). Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection occurred in seven patients in the voclosporin group

and 12 patients in the control group; these events were serious in two patients in the voclosporin group and five patients in the control group (**Supplementary Table S2**).

In AURORA 2, the AE GFR decreased (PT reported per Investigator discretion) occurred in 12 (10.3%) patients in the voclosporin group and in five (5.0%) patients in the control group. Hypertension (PT reported per Investigator discretion) occurred in 10 (8.6%) patients in the voclosporin group and seven (7.0%) patients in the control group. Antihypertensive treatment was initiated in AURORA 2 in 3 (2.6%) patients in the voclosporin arm, and 10 (10.0%) patients in the control arm. Overall AE rates, including GFR decrease and hypertension, were lower in AURORA 2 compared to those reported the first year of treatment in AURORA 1. (**Supplementary Table S5**).

Mean levels of blood pressure, sCr, glucose, hemoglobin A1c, and lipids were stable over time in both groups (**Supplementary Figures S2-S5; Supplementary Table S8**). Mean levels of potassium and magnesium remained within normal ranges (**Supplementary Figures S6 & S7**).

Improvements in Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus: National Assessment Version of the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index (SELENA-SLEDAI) scores, complement 3 (C3), complement 4 (C4), and anti-double stranded DNA (anti-dsDNA) were similar to previously reported outcomes in AURORA 1 (**Supplementary Table S9**).

Four patients, all in the control group, died during the study; three deaths occurred during the study treatment period (due to SARS-CoV-2 infection in two patients and pulmonary embolism in one patient) and one death during the follow-up period (SARS-CoV-2 infection). No deaths were considered to be related to study treatment by the Investigator.

Renal Function by eGFR

Mean corrected eGFR remained in the normal range, stable over the study period in both treatment groups and was not statistically different between groups over the 3-year treatment period (**Figure 1, Supplementary Table S6**). At pretreatment baseline, mean corrected eGFR was 79.0 and 78.7 ml/min/1.73 m^2 in the voclosporin and control groups, respectively, while at Month 36, the respective measurements were 80.3 and 78.7 ml/min/1.73 m^2. Long-term renal function was evaluated with eGFR slope over the 24-month period in AURORA 2, considering the expected acute and early changes in eGFR that occurred in the first year of treatment in AURORA 1. As such, from 12 months exposure onwards, the corrected eGFR slope during AURORA 2 was -0.2 ml/min/1.73 m^2 (95% CI -3.0, 2.7) in the voclosporin group and -5.4 ml/min/1.73 m^2 (95% CI -8.4, -2.3) in the control group (**Figure 2, Supplementary Table S7**).

A laboratory confirmed ≥30% decrease from pretreatment baseline in corrected eGFR was reported in 14 (12.1%) patients in the voclosporin group and 10 (10%) patients in the control group over the 3-year treatment period (**Table 3**).

Renal Efficacy

Reductions in mean UPCR achieved during the first year of treatment in AURORA 1 (voclosporin, 0.86 mg/mg; control, 1.47 mg/mg) were maintained over the AURORA 2 study period in both groups. MMRM analysis confirmed statistically significant greater reductions from baseline in UPCR were achieved in the voclosporin group compared with the control group at all time points except Month 36. At the follow-up safety visit, mean UPCR was 0.78 mg/mg in the voclosporin group and 1.47 mg/mg in the control group (**Figure 3a**). Overall, the proportions of patients achieving ≥50% reduction from baseline in UPCR and UPCR ≤0.5 mg/mg increased up to Months 12 and 18 and were maintained over the total treatment period (**Figure 3b**, **Supplementary Figure S8**).

There was a significant improvement in CRR and PRR with voclosporin treatment compared to placebo at nearly every time point. At the end of AURORA 2 (Month 36), more patients in the voclosporin group than in the control group achieved a CRR (50.9% vs 39.0%; OR 1.74; 95% CI 1.00, 3.03), largely driven by achieving a proteinuria reduction in UPCR to ≤0.5 mg/mg (54.3% vs 43.0%; OR 1.66; 95% CI 0.96, 2.88), and achieved a PRR (74.1% vs 69.0%; OR 1.39; 95% CI 0.75, 2.58) (**Table 3**, **Supplementary Table S10**). In a last observation carried forward analysis of patients without data at Month 36, 12 of 17 patients (70.6%) in the voclosporin group and 5 of 13 patients (38.5%) in the control group achieved ≥50% reduction from baseline in UPCR based on their final UPCR measurement.

Overall, significantly more patients in the voclosporin group than in the control group achieved a good renal outcome (66.4% vs 54.0%; OR 0.56; 95% CI 0.32, 0.99) that is, an adequate response with UPCR ≤0.7 mg/mg and no subsequent renal flare, as adjudicated by the blinded CEC. Of patients who achieved adequate response (101 in the voclosporin group; 73 in the control group), similar proportions in each group experienced renal flares. Non-renal flares were also similar in each group over the three-year treatment period (**Table 3**).

Discussion

AURORA 2 demonstrates the safety and tolerability of continued administration of voclosporin over three years of treatment in patients with LN, which was well tolerated with no new or worsening safety signals and with stability of renal function in the voclosporin group. Clinical efficacy over three years of treatment was maintained, as observed by continued reduced UPCR, increased CRR and preserved kidney function suggesting a positive benefit-risk profile for voclosporin in LN patients.

AURORA 2 was a phase 3, two-year, double-blinded, placebo-controlled continuation trial of the pivotal AURORA 1 study. More than 80% of patients who completed treatment in

AURORA 1 continued in AURORA 2. Key baseline characteristics were balanced between groups. As such, AURORA 2 is structured to provide valuable information on the long-term benefit and risk of voclosporin treatment in adults with LN.

Overall adverse event profiles in AURORA 2 between voclosporin and control groups were comparable, with AEs declining annually and few patients discontinuing due to AEs, suggesting that long-term voclosporin is well-tolerated. Adverse events associated with the hemodynamic effects of the CNI drug class, such as hypertension and GFR decrease occurred more often in the voclosporin group, yet decreased over time, and were managed through dose modifications. There were very few events of Type 2 diabetes mellitus, hyperkalemia, or hyperlipidemia in either group over the course of the study, consistent with earlier reports of improved glucose, electrolyte and lipid profiles with the voclosporin treatment regimen relative to earlier generation calcineurin inhibitors (12, 14). Furthermore, drug discontinuations were less frequent in the voclosporin group compared to the control group. Unique pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic properties, including the low metabolite load and eGFR-based dosing of voclosporin are likely responsible for the benign safety profile observed with voclosporin (11, 16-18).

Significantly more patients in the voclosporin group achieved CRR at the end of AURORA 1 and did so earlier than patients in the control group (12). Such timely renal response has previously been shown to lead to long-term kidney preservation (19, 20). Although an expected minor decrease in kidney function was observed early in AURORA 1 due to the hemodynamic renal effect of CNIs, data across three years of voclosporin exposure showed stable kidney function, as measured with mean eGFR and slope throughout the study (21). eGFR slope in the control group decreased slightly likely reflecting the natural progression of LN and was similarly observed in other trials of LN (22, 23). Preservation of long-term

kidney function along with the favorable safety results of AURORA 2 establishes a positive benefit-risk profile for voclosporin as part of standard of care LN treatment.

At the start of AURORA 2, mean UPCR was lower in the voclosporin (0.86 mg/mg) than in the control group (1.47 mg/mg), reflecting improved disease control by voclosporin in the first year of treatment. Additionally, more voclosporin patients had a good renal outcome than those in the control group, demonstrating a clear clinical benefit of voclosporin.

It is noteworthy that for patients achieving adequate disease control, results were attained in a setting where study drug dose modifications were permitted; approximately 30% of the voclosporin group and 9% of the control group ended AURORA 2 on a lower dose. Most dose changes occurred in the first year of treatment in AURORA 1, potentially reflecting real-world clinical practice in terms of long-term safety, tolerability, and efficacy.

Patients in AURORA 2 continued the randomized treatment assignment of voclosporin or placebo from AURORA 1. Although AURORA 2 treatment groups were relatively balanced with respect to baseline demographic characteristics, more patients in the voclosporin group had achieved a renal response at the start of AURORA 2 and the mean UPCR level was lower in voclosporin patients, representing a potential source of selection bias for those patients choosing to enter AURORA 2 and a limitation of the study. As more patients in the voclosporin group both continued into AURORA 2 and achieved proteinuria reductions, more patients in this group were therefore assessed for renal flare. This should be borne in mind when comparing renal flare rates between groups; it may be helpful to refer to good renal outcome which was assessed in all patients of the study i.e., the number of patients with adequate response (proteinuria reduction) and no renal flare. Continuation studies typically are open label, a potential source of bias avoided in this study as AURORA 2 continued as a double-blinded study. Voclosporin treatment data collection included results from AURORA 1, providing an opportunity to assess long-term effects of treatment durability and response

and clinical parameters indicative of safety. As a long-term study occurring, in part, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is notable that the majority of patients attended most study visits and completed three years of treatment. We also acknowledge in CRR and PRR analyses that patients who missed a study visit or discontinued early are considered non-responders. Therefore, it may be informative to evaluate efficacy outcomes with the descriptive analyses including only the proportion of patients contributing data at specified timepoints.

Preclinical work demonstrates that voclosporin inhibits SARs-CoV-2 replication, with clinical research in this area recently reported (22, 23). Interestingly, three deaths due to coronavirus infection occurred in the control group and none in the voclosporin group. Whether calcineurin suppression of cytokine production from immune cells or inhibition of SARs-CoV-2 replication could contribute to this observation merits further research.

This analysis confirms the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of voclosporin reported previously, with no new or unexpected safety signals observed with an additional two years of treatment. We propose that the rapid renal response achieved with voclosporin treatment has beneficial long-term consequences, supported by stable kidney function over the 3-year treatment period. Overall, 3-year data provides further support for the use of voclosporin with MMF and low-dose glucocorticoids for the treatment of LN.

Data statement

The aggregated data underlying this article, the study protocol, and statistical analysis plan will be shared with researchers on reasonable request to the corresponding author. Data will be shared through a secure online platform after signing a data access agreement. Data will be available at the time of publication and for a minimum of five years from the end of the trial.

Acknowledgments

We thank all AURORA 2 investigators, study site coordinators, and patients who participated in this study. We also thank Matt Truman, study statistician; Neil Solomons for his contributions to the voclosporin clinical program; the Drug Safety Monitoring Board members: Arif Khwaja, James Sawyer, and Ed Vital; and the Clinical Endpoints Committee: Ian Bruce, Daniel Cattran, Teun van Gelder, and Md Yuzaiful Md Yusof. Rachelle Steele and Kara McNair (MediComm Partners, London, UK) provided medical writing support. Aurinia provided funding for the study and publication.

Author Contributions

All authors were involved in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and all authors approved the final version to be submitted for publication. All authors had full access to all the data in the study and take full responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

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Figure 1. Mean corrected eGFR (95% CI) and mean change from pretreatment AURORA 1 baseline. Analysis of AURORA 2 patients (n=216) includes pooled data from AURORA 1 and AURORA 2 including a FUP visit at four weeks after study drug discontinuation. Pretreatment baseline was defined as the last value before patient received first dose of study drug on Day 1 of AURORA 1. CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FUP, follow-up.

Figure 2. Mean corrected eGFR slope and eGFR change (95% CI) from Month 12. AURORA 2 patients (n=216) completed 12 months of treatment in AURORA 1 before entering AURORA 2. Mean corrected eGFR slope and eGFR change are calculated from entry into AURORA 2 (Month 12 of treatment) to end of AURORA 2 at Month 36. CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.

Figure 3: Mean UPCR (95% CI) and proportion of patients with 50% reduction in UPCR. Analysis of AURORA 2 patients (n=216) includes pooled data from AURORA 1 and AURORA 2 including a FUP at four weeks after study drug discontinuation. a) Mean UPCR data of patients by study visit. A) Two weeks from start of study treatment. B) Four weeks from start of study treatment. C) Eight weeks from start of study treatment; b) Proportion of patients with at least a 50% reduction from baseline in UPCR by visit. Percentages calculated with denominator that includes patients with a UPCR measure at the specified timepoint. Patients without data at the timepoint are not included. Baseline defined as last value before patient received first dose of study drug on Day 1 of AURORA 1. CI, confidence interval; FUP, follow-up visit; UPCR, urine protein creatinine ratio.

	Voclosporin n=116	Control n=100
Age, years		
Mean (SD)	32.3 (10.3)	35.4 (11.6)
Sex, n (%)		
Female	105 (90.5)	88 (88.0)
Male	11 (9.5)	12 (12.0)
Race, n (%)		
White	44 (37.9)	40 (40.0)
Asian	30 (25.9)	30 (30.0)
Black	18 (15.5)	7 (7.0)
Other	24 (20.7)	23 (23.0)
Ethnicity, n (%)		
Hispanic or Latino	39 (33.6)	33 (33.0)
Non-Hispanic or non-Latino	77 (66.4)	67 (67.0)
Region, n (%)		
North America	15 (12.9)	9 (9.0)
Latin America	34 (29.3)	27 (27.0)
Europe and South Africa	38 (32.8)	37 (37.0)
Asia-Pacific	29 (25.0)	27 (27.0)
Biopsy class, n (%)		
Class III	14 (12.1)	21 (21.0)
Class IV	64 (55.2)	37 (37.0)
Class V	17 (14.7)	14 (14.0)
Mixed Class V and III/IV	21 (18.1)	28 (28.0)
Biopsy within 6 months of AURORA 1 screening, n (%)	100 (86.2)	90 (90.0)
Corrected eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m^2		
Mean (SD)	79.0 (15.1)	78.7 (16.6)
UPCR, mg/mg		
Mean (SD)	3.94 (2.6)	3.87 (2.5)
Mean (SD) time since initial LN diagnosis, years	4.8 (5.3)	5.0 (5.2)
Mean (SD) time since initial SLE diagnosis, years	6.6 (6.7)	7.3 (6.9)

Table 1 Demographic and pretreatment baseline patient characteristics. Patient characteristics of AURORA 2 patients (n=216) at AURORA 1 pretreatment baseline (baseline defined as the last value before patient received first dose of study drug on Day 1 of AURORA 1). eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; LN, lupus nephritis; n, number of patients; SD, standard deviation; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus; UPCR, urine protein creatinine ratio.

	Voclosporin n=116					Control n=100				
	Year 1 (n=116)	Year 2 (n=116)	Year 3 (n=103)	Overall 3-year treatment period (n=116)	AURORA 2 only (n=116)	Year 1 (n=100)	Year 2 (n=100)	Year 3 (n=85)	Overall 3-year treatment period (n=100)	AURORA 2 only (n=100)
AEs, n (%)										
AE	103 (88.8)	85 (73.3)	67 (65.0)	107 (92.2)	100 (86.2)	84 (84.0)	66 (66.0)	46 (54.1)	95 (95.0)	80 (80.0)
Treatment-related AE	47 (40.5)	21 (18.1)	9 (8.7)	58 (50.0)	28 (24.1)	20 (20.0)	18 (18.0)	8 (9.4)	31 (31.0)	21 (21.0)
SAE	13 (11.2)	13 (11.2)	8 (7.8)	31 (26.7)	21 (18.1)	13 (13.0)	18 (18.0)	8 (9.4)	28 (28.0)	23 (23.0)
Treatment-related SAE	4 (3.4)	1 (0.9)	0	5 (4.3)	1 (0.9)	2 (2.0)	2 (2.0)	0	4 (4.0)	2 (2.0)
AEs by SOC (reported in ≥15% of patients in either group), n (%)										
Infections and infestations	70 (60.3)	45 (38.8)	35 (34.0)	81 (69.8)	57 (49.1)	60 (60.0)	30 (30.0)	21 (24.7)	72 (72.0)	43 (43.0)
Gastrointestinal disorders	51 (44.0)	21 (18.1)	13 (12.6)	56 (48.3)	28 (24.1)	29 (29.0)	11 (11.0)	7 (8.2)	36 (36.0)	15 (15.0)
Musculoskeletal connective tissue disorders	26 (22.4)	18 (15.5)	13 (12.6)	41 (35.3)	27 (23.3)	27 (27.0)	13 (13.0)	10 (11.8)	40 (40.0)	23 (23.0)

Investigations*	30 (25.9)	19 (16.4)	8 (7.8)	43 (37.1)	24 (20.7)	16 (16.0)	11 (11.0)	5 (5.9)	29 (29.0)	16 (16.0)
Nervous system disorders	33 (28.4)	11 (9.5)	5 (4.9)	40 (34.5)	14 (12.1)	13 (13.0)	6 (6.0)	3 (3.5)	17 (17.0)	8 (8.0)
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	26 (22.4)	13 (11.2)	12 (11.7)	38 (32.8)	21 (18.1)	16 (16.0)	6 (6.0)	4 (4.7)	20 (20.0)	9 (9.0)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	23 (19.8)	6 (5.2)	12 (11.7)	31 (26.7)	16 (13.8)	16 (16.0)	5 (5.0)	5 (5.9)	22 (22.0)	9 (9.0)
Vascular disorders	25 (21.6)	7 (6.0)	3 (2.9)	31 (26.7)	10 (8.6)	12 (12.0)	8 (8.0)	5 (5.9)	24 (24.0)	13 (13.0)
General disorders and administration site conditions	19 (16.4)	11 (9.5)	7 (6.8)	29 (25.0)	14 (12.1)	19 (19.0)	4 (4.0)	8 (9.4)	24 (24.0)	13 (13.0)
Renal and urinary disorders	11 (9.5)	13 (11.2)	9 (8.7)	27 (23.3)	21 (18.1)	8 (8.0)	6 (6.0)	5 (5.9)	15 (15.0)	10 (10.0)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	11 (9.5)	4 (3.4)	7 (6.8)	20 (17.2)	12 (10.3)	19 (19.0)	6 (6.0)	1 (1.2)	22 (22.0)	8 (8.0)
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders	14 (12.1)	7 (6.0)	3 (2.9)	19 (16.4)	9 (7.8)	8 (8.0)	5 (5.0)	1 (1.2)	13 (13.0)	6 (6.0)
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	10 (8.6)	7 (6.0)	10 (9.7)	18 (15.5)	15 (12.9)	8 (8.0)	9 (9.0)	1 (1.2)	13 (13.0)	9 (9.0)

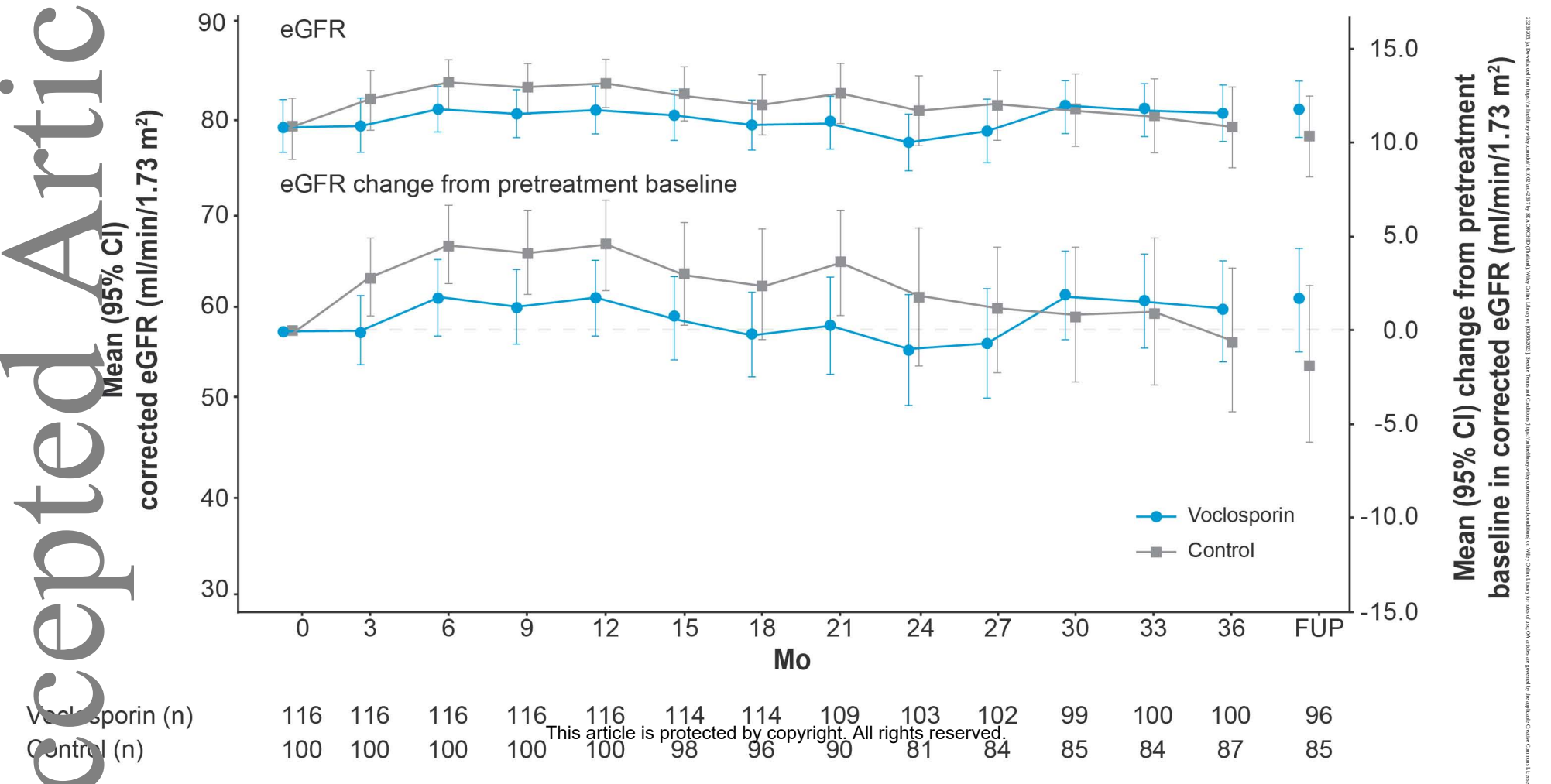
Table 2 Adverse events by year of study. Data reported are n (%). AEs reported for events in AURORA 1 and AURORA 2 and up to 30 days after study treatment end. Patients are counted once within a SOC and once for each unique PT. AEs were aggregated by SOC and PT and coded

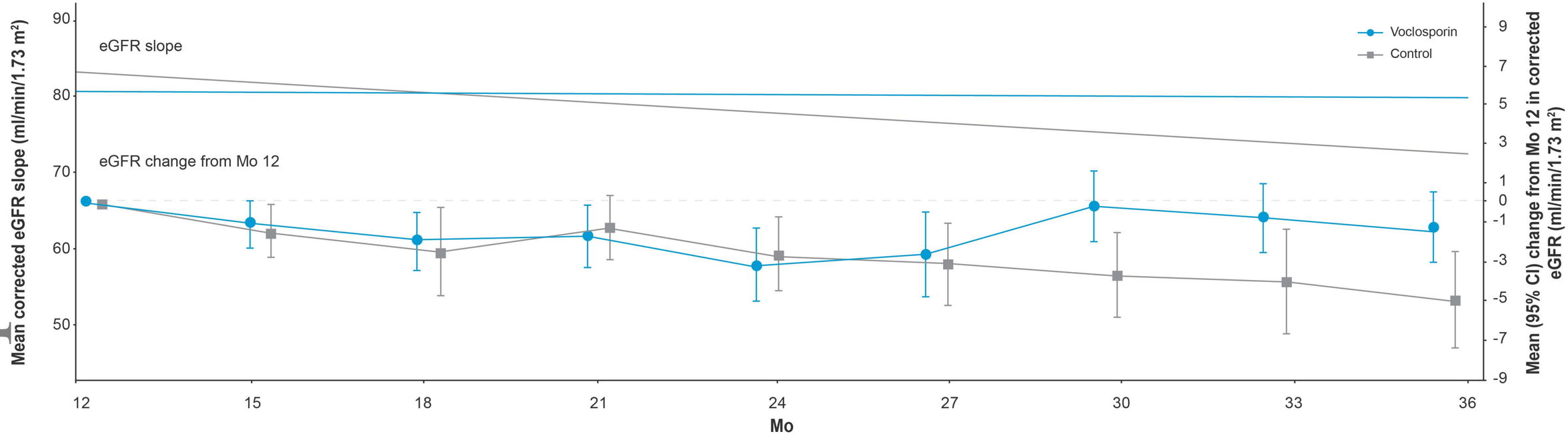
using MedDRA Version 20.0. *The SOC of Investigations is driven by eGFR decrease (Overall, voclosporin, n=28 [24.1%], 47 events; control, n=9 [9.0%], 13 events). AE, adverse event; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; MeDRA, Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities; n, number of patients; PT, preferred term; SAE, serious adverse event; SOC, system organ class.

	Voclosporin n=116	Control n=100	OR (95% CI)	*P* value
	% (n/n)			
CRR				
Month 12	52.6 (61/116)	34.0 (34/100)	2.30 (1.30, 4.05)	0.004
Month 24	56.0 (65/116)	43.0 (43/100)	1.81 (1.04, 3.16)	0.035
Month 36	50.9 (59/116)	39.0 (39/100)	1.74 (1.00, 3.03)	0.051
PRR				
Month 12	89.7 (104/116)	70.0 (70/100)	3.99 (1.88, 8.46)	<0.001
Month 24	77.6 (90/116)	58.0 (58/100)	2.68 (1.46, 4.91)	0.001
Month 36	74.1 (86/116)	69.0 (69/100)	1.39 (0.75, 2.58)	0.290
Proportion with ≤0.5 mg/mg UPCR				
Month 12	54.3 (63/116)	34.0 (34/100)	N/A	N/A
Month 24	65.7 (69/105)	54.3 (44/81)		
Month 36	63.6 (63/99)	49.4 (43/87)		
Proportion with ≥50% UPCR reduction				
Month 12	89.7 (104/116)	70.0 (70/100)	N/A	N/A
Month 24	85.7 (90/105)	71.6 (58/81)		
Month 36	86.9 (86/99)	79.3 (69/87)		
Proportion with ≥30% eGFR decrease				
Overall	12.1 (14/116)	10.0 (10/100)	N/A	N/A
Good renal outcome				
Overall	66.4 (77/116)	54.0 (54/100)	0.56 (0.32, 0.99)	0.045
Renal flare				
Overall	23.8 (24/101)	26.0 (19/73)	0.85 (0.42, 1.73)	0.662
Non-renal flare				
Overall	18.1 (21/116)	14.0 (14/100)	1.33 (0.63, 2.81)	0.448

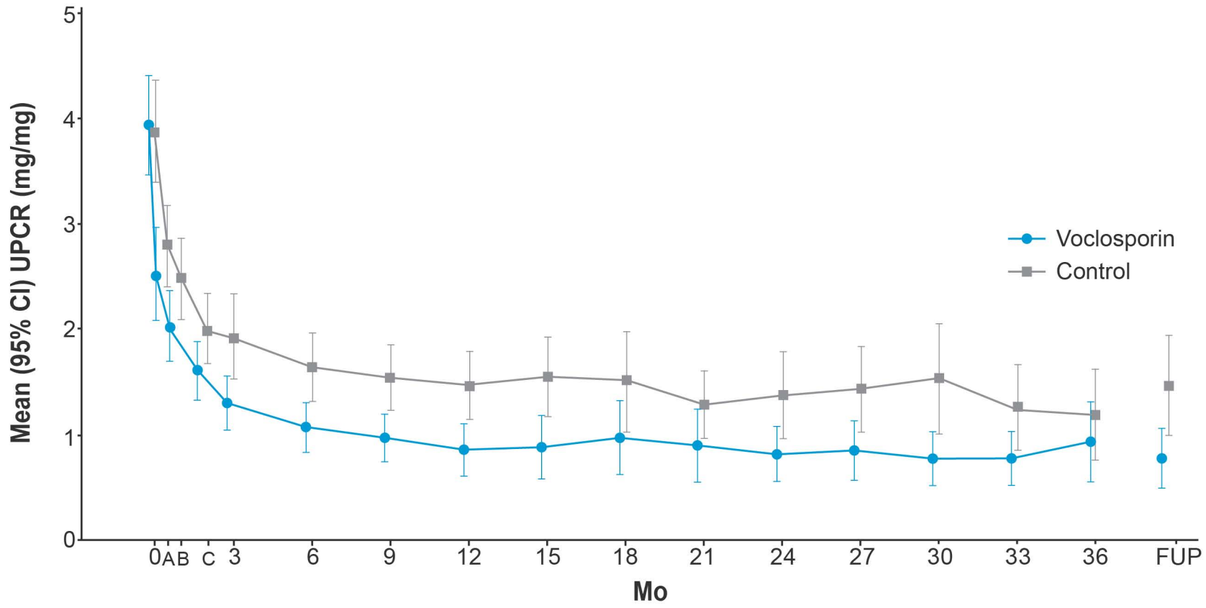
Table 3 Efficacy Analyses. Analysis of AURORA 2 patients (n=216) includes pooled data from AURORA 1 and AURORA 2. Values of proportion data are percentages calculated with the denominator representing the number of patients contributing data at each time point. Patients who withdrew from the study prior to the response assessment or did not have data at the specified timepoint were defined as non-responders in CRR and PRR assessments. AE, adverse event; CEC, Clinical Endpoints Committee; CI, confidence interval; CRR, complete renal response; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; LN, lupus nephritis; MMF,

mycophenolate mofetil; N/A, not applicable; OR, odds ratio; PRR, partial renal response; UPCR, urine protein creatinine ratio.

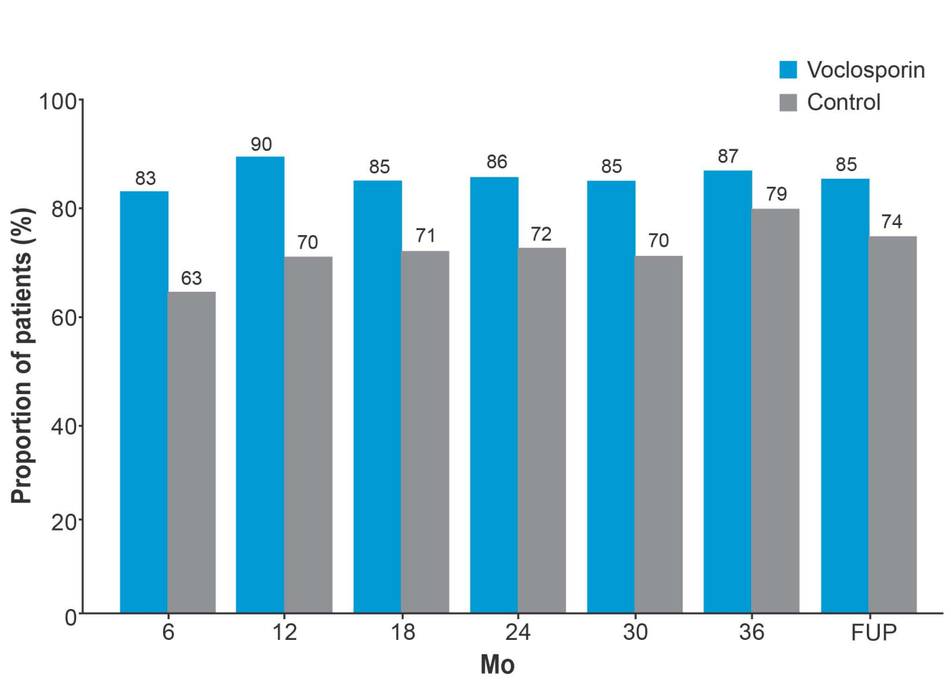




Voclosporin (n)	116	114	114	109	103	102	99	100	100
Control (n)	100	98	96	90	81	84	85	84	87



	0	A	B	C	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	FUP
Voclosporin (n)	116				111	116	116	116	113	113	109	105	102	100	99	99	95
Control (n)	100				100	100	100	100	96	96	90	81	86	87	84	87	85



	6	12	18	24	30	36	FUP
Voclosporin (n)	116	116	113	105	100	99	95
Control (n)	100	100	96	81	87	87	85

Long-Term Voclosporin Treatment for Lupus Nephritis Is Safe and Effective

1 3 years of voclosporin treatment studied

AURORA 1 Randomized One-year Phase 3 Clinical Trial	AURORA 2 Continuation Two-year Phase 3 Clinical Trial
Randomization: Voclosporin + MMF + GC (n=179)	→ Voclosporin + MMF + GC (n=116)
Randomization: Placebo + MMF + GC (n=178)	→ Placebo + MMF + GC (n=100)

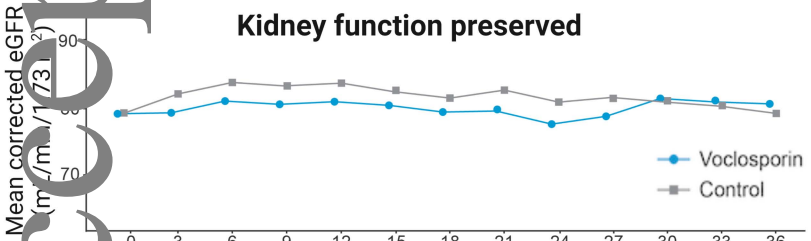
GC target 2.5 mg/day by week 16 and thereafter MMF target 2 gm/day

2 Long-term voclosporin treatment safe and well-tolerated

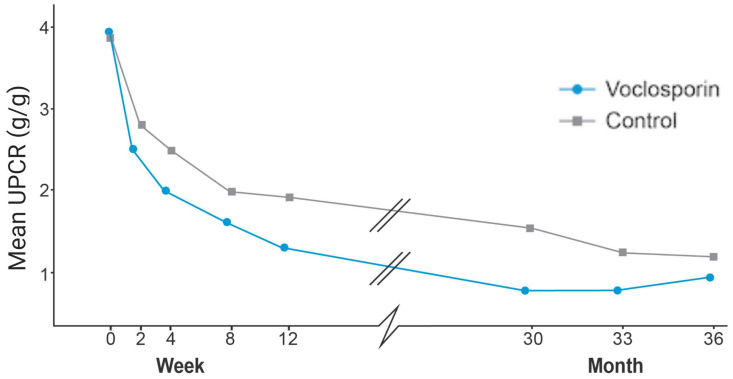
86.1% completed AURORA 2

Comparable AEs in both groups

Kidney function preserved

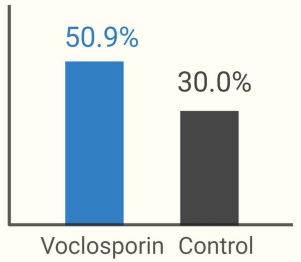


3 Rapid and persistent proteinuria reductions



Voclosporin-treated patients had more rapid and greater reductions in UPCR compared to control, maintained with continued treatment

Complete Renal Response at Month 36



AE = adverse event; CI = confidence interval; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; GC = glucocorticoid; MMF = mycophenolate mofetil; UPCR = urine protein-to-creatinine ratio.

Saxena A, Ginzler E, Gibson K, et al. Safety and efficacy of long-term voclosporin treatment for lupus nephritis in the Phase 3 AURORA 2 clinical trial. Arthritis Rheumatol 2023.

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