Nefecon treatment response in Asian and White patient populations with immunoglobulin A nephropathy: A 2-year analysis of the Phase 3 NefIgArd trial

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Authors: Jonathan Barratt¹, Jens Kristensen², Andrew Stone³, Jürgen Floege⁴, Vladimir Tesař⁵, Hernán Trimarchi⁶, Hong Zhang⁷, Necmi Eren⁸, Alexander Paliege⁹, Heather N. Reich¹⁰, Brad H. Rovin¹¹, and Richard Lafayette¹², on behalf of the NefIgArd trial investigators

Affiliations: ¹College of Medicine Biological Sciences and Psychology, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK; ²Calliditas Therapeutics AB, Stockholm, Sweden; ³Stone Biostatistics Ltd., Crewe, UK; ⁴Department of Nephrology and Clinical Immunology, Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen University Hospital, Aachen, Germany; ⁵Department of Nephrology, First Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; ⁶Nephrology Service, Hospital Británico de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina; ⁷Renal Division, Peking University First Hospital, Peking University Institute of Nephrology, Beijing, China; ⁸Department of Nephrology, Kocaeli University, Kocaeli, Turkey; ⁹Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine III, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany; ¹⁰Division of Nephrology, University Health Network, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; ¹¹Division of Nephrology, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH, USA; ¹² Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

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Nefecon has not been approved by the Japanese Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency.
I have the following relationships to disclose any COI for this research presentation within the period of 36 months.

- Employment/leadership position/advisory role: Calliditas Therapeutics
- Stock ownership or options:
- Patent royalties/licensing fees:
- Honoraria (e.g. lecture fees):
- Manuscript fees:
- Research funding: Calliditas Therapeutics
- Subsidies or donations:
- Endowed departments by commercial entities:
- Travel fees, gifts, and others:
Introduction

- Nefecon is a novel, oral, targeted-release budesonide formulation specifically designed to treat IgAN by inhibiting IgA formation in the Peyer’s patch-rich distal ileum\(^1,2\)
- In the interim analysis of the Phase 3 NefIgArd trial, treatment of patients with primary IgAN with Nefecon 16 mg/day for 9 months resulted in significantly reduced proteinuria and eGFR benefit compared with placebo at 3 months post treatment\(^3\)
- People of East Asian ancestry have the highest likelihood of all race categories to progress to kidney failure as a result of IgAN\(^4\)
- Here, we present the overall safety and efficacy data from the full 2-year NefIgArd trial (9 months of treatment and 15 months off-treatment follow-up) and assess responses to Nefecon in patients identifying as Asian or White

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**Methods**

**NefIgArd: A Phase 3, two-part, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study**

**Key inclusion criteria:**
- ≥18 years old with biopsy-confirmed primary IgAN
- UPCR ≥0.8 g/g or proteinuria ≥1 g/24 h, despite optimized RAS inhibitor blockade
- eGFR 35-90 mL/min/1.73 m²

**Key exclusion criteria**
- Secondary form of IgAN or non-IgAN glomerulonephritis
- Kidney transplant
- Systemic diseases that may cause mesangial IgA deposition
- Poorly controlled BP (≥140/90 mmHg)
- Poorly controlled T1D or T2D

**Subgroup analysis by race**
- Time-weighted eGFR average over 2 years, changes in UPCR and UACR, time to 30% reduction in eGFR or kidney failure, microhematuria, and safety outcomes were stratified according to whether patients identified as Asian or White
  - Race categories were defined based on those specified by the FDA
- Full analysis set included 364 patients: Asian (n=83), White (n=275), and other (n=6)

BP, blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; Ig, immunoglobulin; IgAN, immunoglobulin A nephropathy; RAS, renin–angiotensin system; T1D, type 1 diabetes; T2D, type 2 diabetes; UACR, urine albumin-creatinine ratio; UPCR, urine protein-creatinine ratio.
Overall study population: Key efficacy results

Primary endpoint: Time-weighted average change from baseline in eGFR over the 2-year period

*EgFR treatment benefit of 5.1 (95% CI 3.2, 7.4) mL/min/1.73 m² with Nefecon 16 mg/day vs placebo (p<0.0001)*

Secondary endpoint: Mean percentage change in UPCR from baseline

*30% reduction in UPCR with Nefecon compared with placebo observed after the 9-month treatment period sustained up to 2 years*
Race subgroup analysis: 2-year time-weighted average eGFR

Asian patients

Primary endpoint
Time-weighted average change in eGFR over the 2-year period
Difference of 5.5 mL/min/1.73 m² (95% CI 1.4, 9.9) in favor of Nefecon*

White patients

Primary endpoint
Time-weighted average change in eGFR over the 2-year period
Difference of 4.8 mL/min/1.73 m² (95% CI 2.4, 7.3) in favor of Nefecon*

*Calculated based on the difference between pooled baseline geometric mean × (geometric LS mean of ratio of AUC over 2 years compared with baseline for each treatment arm – 1) for Nefecon minus placebo.
CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; SE, standard error.
Race subgroup analysis: UPCR

Asian patients

Secondary endpoint: Estimated percent reduction from baseline in UPCR*
- Greater percent reduction from baseline in UPCR for Nefecon vs placebo at 9 months (23%) and 24 months (27%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Nefecon</th>
<th>Placebo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>16 mg, n</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

White patients

Secondary endpoint: Estimated percent reduction from baseline in UPCR*
- Greater percent reduction from baseline in UPCR for Nefecon vs placebo at 9 months (32%) and 24 months (32%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Nefecon</th>
<th>Placebo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>16 mg, n</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For each postbaseline visit, the geometric mean of all available measurements within the corresponding analysis window was used. SE, standard error; UPCR, urine protein-creatinine ratio.
## Race subgroup analysis: 30% reduction in eGFR or kidney failure

First confirmed 30% reduction in eGFR or kidney failure regardless of rescue medication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nefecon n/n (%)</th>
<th>Placebo n/n (%)</th>
<th>HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All patients</strong></td>
<td>25/182 (14%)</td>
<td>49/182 (27%)</td>
<td>0.44 (0.27-0.71)</td>
<td>0.0009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=364)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian patients</strong></td>
<td>4/43 (9%)</td>
<td>13/40 (33%)</td>
<td>0.32 (0.09-0.91)</td>
<td>0.0479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=83)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White patients</strong></td>
<td>21/138 (15%)</td>
<td>34/137 (25%)</td>
<td>0.48 (0.28-0.83)</td>
<td>0.0093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=275)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Nefecon significantly reduced the risk of 30% reduction in eGFR or kidney failure irrespective of whether patients were Asian or White.

This was a post hoc analysis using an unweighted Cox model, in which the time to confirmed 30% eGFR reduction was estimated regardless of use of rescue medication. 30% reduction in eGFR was confirmed by two values over ≥4 weeks and kidney failure was defined as dialysis, kidney transplantation, sustained eGFR <15 mL/min/1.73 m², or kidney-related death. CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.
Race subgroup analysis: Microhematuria

Proportion of Asian and White patients without microhematuria* at baseline and observational follow-up, stratified by race

Comparison of Nefecon 16 mg/day vs placebo:
- Asian patients: OR 3.5 (95% CI 1.2, 11.7); p=0.0303
- White patients: OR 2.3 (95% CI 1.3, 3.9); p=0.0030

* A patient was defined as without microhematuria if the urine dipstick returned a result of negative or trace. Patients without at least two valid results from 12 months onwards were excluded from the analysis.

CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio.
Race subgroup analysis: Safety

- Rates of TEAEs were **broadly similar** across groups, although with a slightly higher overall rate of TEAEs in Asian patients.

- Compared with White patients, Asian patients receiving Nefecon were:*
  - **More likely** to experience peripheral edema, face edema, and arthralgia
  - **Less likely** to experience muscle spasms, acne, headache, and fatigue

- Rates of infections, diabetes, and hypertension were **broadly similar** among White and Asian patients

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian (N=83)</th>
<th>White (N=275)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nefecon, n (%)</td>
<td>Placebo, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All TEAEs</td>
<td>43 (100)</td>
<td>29 (72.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>22 (51.2)</td>
<td>19 (47.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>20 (46.5)</td>
<td>10 (25.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>1 (2.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any serious TEAEs</td>
<td>4 (9.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any treatment-related serious TEAEs</td>
<td>3 (7.0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any AEs leading to death</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any TEAEs leading to discontinuation of study treatment</td>
<td>7 (16.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on AEs which occurred in ≥5% of patients in the Nefecon arm (overall population) and were higher than for placebo recipients. AE, adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.
The NefIgArd study successfully met its 2-year primary endpoint, demonstrating 9 months of Nefecon treatment provided a statistically significant and clinically relevant preservation of eGFR compared with placebo.

- Nefecon achieved a durable reduction in proteinuria when evaluated 15 months after end of treatment.
- Nefecon was also well tolerated, with a safety profile as expected for a locally acting oral budesonide product.

Although the number of patients identifying as Asian was considerably lower than the number identifying as White, the results from this subgroup analysis indicate that Nefecon was efficacious and well tolerated irrespective of White or Asian race.

eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.