Secukinumab shows high efficacy irrespective of HLA-Cw6 status in patients with moderate-to-severe plaque-type psoriasis: SUPREME study*

A. Costanzo,1,2 L. Bianchi,3 M.L. Flori,4 G. Malara,6 L. Stingeni,6 M. Bartezaghi,7 L. Carraro7 and G. Castellino7 for the SUPREME Study Group

1Dermatology Unit, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Humanitas University and 2Skin Pathology Laboratory IRCCS Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Via Alessandro Manzoni 113, Rozzano-Milan 20089, Italy
3Dermatology, Department of Systems Medicine, Policlinico di Tor Vergata, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Viale Oxford 81, Rome 00133, Italy
4Dermatology Section, Department of Clinical Medicine and Immunological Science, University of Siena, Hospital S. Maria alle Scotte, viale Bracci, Siena, Italy
5Dermatology Department, Grande Ospedale Metropolitano, Bianchi Melacrino Morelli, 89124 Reggio Calabria, Italy
6Section of Clinical, Allergological and Venerological Dermatology, Department of Medicine, University of Perugia, Piazza Menghini 1, Perugia 06129, Italy
7Novartis Farma S.p.A., Via Sarromino, Origgio VA 21042, Italy

Summary

Background Understanding genetic variations is important in predicting treatment response and forms the basis for identifying new pharmacogenetic and pharmacogenomic targets for psoriasis treatment. There are limited data on the efficacy of secukinumab in relation to genetic markers.

Objectives To evaluate the efficacy and safety of secukinumab 300 mg in HLA-Cw6-positive (Cw6-POS) and HLA-Cw6-negative (Cw6-NEG) patients with moderate-to-severe chronic plaque-type psoriasis.

Methods SUPREME was a 24-week, phase IIIb study with an extension period up to 72 weeks. Primary end point was Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) 90 response rate after 16 weeks.

Results In total, 434 patients were recruited: 185 (42.6%) were Cw6-POS and 246 (57.4%) were Cw6-NEG (three not assessed). Mean ± SD age was 45.2 ± 13.2 years (Cw6-POS 42.7 ± 13.1; Cw6-NEG 47.2 ± 12.9). The baseline PASI score was comparable between the cohorts [Cw6-POS 20.7 ± 8.99; Cw6-NEG 21.5 ± 9.99 (P = 0.777)]. At week 16, PASI 90 was achieved in 80.4% of Cw6-POS patients and 79.7% of Cw6-NEG patients (difference 0.76; 95% confidence interval –0.49 to 2.01). No differences in absolute PASI at week 16 (Cw6-POS 1.36 ± 3.58; Cw6-NEG 1.18 ± 2.29) were observed. The overall safety profile of secukinumab was consistent with that previously reported. No statistically significant difference was detected in the rate of treatment-emergent adverse events [Cw6-POS 42.7%; Cw6-NEG 49.6% (P = 0.295)]. A high PASI 90 response was achieved with secukinumab with a fast reduction in absolute PASI.

Conclusions Determination of HLA-Cw6 status for secukinumab therapy is unnecessary, as it is highly effective regardless of HLA-Cw6 status.

What’s already known about this topic?

- HLA-Cw6 is associated with the phenotypic features of psoriasis and positive response to ustekinumab and is present in approximately 40–80% of cases.
- Secukinumab is a fully human monoclonal antibody neutralizing interleukin-17A and it has demonstrated a rapid onset of action and sustained responses with a favourable safety profile in moderate-to-severe psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.
Chronic plaque-type psoriasis is the most common form of plaque psoriasis and is characterized by increased proliferation of keratinocytes, hyperplasia of the epidermis, strong inflammatory infiltrate of the dermis and marked dilation of vessels in the papillary dermal region, leading to the formation of well-demarcated, red, raised and scaly plaques. Pathogenesis of plaque psoriasis involves a complex interaction of genetic, environmental and immunological factors.

The understanding of the genetic variations is pivotal in predicting the treatment response and forms the basis for identifying new pharmacogenetic and pharmacogenomic targets for the treatment of psoriasis. Genetic linkage and association studies have identified several chromosomal loci linked to psoriasis susceptibility. A recent meta-analysis of psoriasis genetic predisposition identified 52 different psoriasis susceptibility (PSORS) loci associated with increased risk of developing the disease. Among these, PSORS1, located within the major histocompatibility complex on chromosome 6p21, is associated with the greatest risk for early-onset (type 1) psoriasis. The most likely PSORS1 allele is HLA-Cw6, which is associated with the phenotypic features of psoriasis and present in approximately 40–80% of cases. HLA-Cw6 is associated with more severe and early-onset psoriasis, and Caucasian patients who are carriers of this allele have about a 10-fold increased risk of developing psoriasis.

Recent studies have shown that biological drugs approved for treating psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) are not effective in all patients, and that variations in the genome have been associated with different clinical responses or side-effects. For example, ustekinumab, a human monoclonal antibody against interleukin (IL)-12 and IL-23, has shown a superior and faster response in HLA-Cw6-positive (Cw6-POS) patients than in HLA-Cw6-negative (Cw6-NEG) patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis. Secukinumab is a fully human monoclonal antibody that neutralizes IL-17A and it has demonstrated a rapid onset of action and sustained responses with a favourable safety profile in moderate-to-severe psoriasis, PsA and ankylosing spondylitis. The efficacy of secukinumab has been established in different indications; however, little is known about the potential differences in response to secukinumab treatment between patients stratified for the presence of a genetic biomarker. SUPREME was a phase IIIb study (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier NCT02394561) conducted to explore the efficacy and safety profile of secukinumab 300 mg in patients with moderate-to-severe chronic plaque-type psoriasis, stratified by HLA-Cw6 status. Herein, we present the efficacy and safety results from the core study.

What does this study add?

- Although HLA-Cw6-positive and HLA-Cw6-negative patients have distinct clinical features, the present study showed that secukinumab achieved similar clinical responses in both cohorts after 24 weeks of treatment.
- There was no difference in efficacy regarding HLA-Cw6 status.

Materials and methods

Study design

The SUPREME core study was a 24-week, phase IIIb, multicentre, prospective study conducted across 50 centres in Italy, with an extension period up to 72 weeks. The study consisted of four periods: (i) a screening period consisting of two visits (prescreening and screening); (ii) an induction period of 4 weeks; (iii) a maintenance period of 20 weeks; and (iv) an extension period of at least 12 weeks and up to 48 weeks. There were 12 study visits (weeks −4, −2, 0 (baseline), 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20 and 24). Patients were centrally assessed for HLA-Cw6 positivity or negativity at the prescreening visit (week −4 and day −28) and stratified into two cohorts. HLA-Cw6 status was blinded for both the patients and the investigators. After the full screening visit (week −2 and day −14 to −7), eligible patients were treated with subcutaneous secukinumab 300 mg (two 150 mg injections) per week for the first 5 weeks (visits 3–7) starting at baseline (week 0), followed by a maintenance period of 300 mg (two 150 mg injections) per month (visits 8–12). Psoriasis severity was evaluated at week 16, and patients achieving at least a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) 50 response were eligible to continue the study treatment for an additional 8 weeks up to 24 weeks. Patients achieving PASI 75 at the end of 24 weeks were eligible to enter the 48-week extension phase.

Patients

Male or female patients aged ≥18 years diagnosed with moderate-to-severe chronic plaque-type psoriasis of at least 6 months’ duration (including patients with concomitant nail, scalp or PsA according to the Classification Criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis) were included in the study. Moderate-to-severe plaque-type psoriasis was defined at enrolment by: PASI score ≥10 or PASI score >5 but <10 and Dermatomyositis Life Quality Index ≥10. As a consequence of the European Medicines Agency’s approval of secukinumab in February 2015, inclusion criteria were updated in order to guarantee treatment to systemic naïve patients, as per label, other than to patients
naïve to, intolerant to or failing a previous biological treatment with anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-α therapy.

Key exclusion criteria included forms of psoriasis other than chronic plaque type (e.g. pustular, erythrodermic and guttate psoriasis), ciclosporin or methotrexate administration within 4 weeks prior to day 1, and previous exposure to any biological drug for the treatment of psoriasis that was not anti-TNF-α therapy.

All patients provided written informed consent before enrolment into the study. The study protocol was approved by the institutional review board of each participating centre. The trial was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice, and in compliance with all federal, local and regional requirements.

**Study end points**

The primary end point was a PASI 90 response rate in Cw6-NEG and Cw6-POS patients after 16 weeks. The key secondary end points were comparison of the following parameters between the cohorts: proportion of responders to PASI 50, PASI 75, PASI 90 and PASI 100 over time; mean changes from baseline in the Investigator’s Global Assessment modified in 2011 (IGA mod 2011) over time; time to reach PASI 90 and PASI 75; and safety and tolerability for 24 weeks and for up to 72 weeks thereafter.

**Assessments**

**Efficacy**

The severity of psoriasis was measured using PASI, at each visit from visit 2 to visit 12. PASI combines the assessment of the severity of lesions and the area affected into a single score with a range of 0 (no disease) to 72 (maximal disease).28 PASI 50, PASI 75 and PASI 90 were defined as the achievement of ≥ 50%, ≥ 75% and ≥ 90% improvement (reduction) in PASI score vs. baseline, respectively. PASI 100 was defined as the achievement of complete clearing of psoriasis (PASI = 0). The IGA mod 2011 scale was used to assess overall psoriatic disease on a 5-point scale ranging from 0 (no disease, ‘clear’) to 4 (‘very severe’).29

**Safety**

Haematology and clinical chemistry assessments were performed at visits 2 and 3 and then at each visit starting from visit 7. Urinalysis was performed at visits 2, 10 and 12. Electrocardiogram and chest X-ray were performed at visit 2 (baseline). All reported adverse events (AEs) were coded using the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities terminology and were recorded by severity (mild, moderate or severe), relationship to the study drug, duration and outcome.

**DNA extraction and genotyping**

HLA-Cw6 status was determined as previously described.17,18 Briefly, venous blood for genotyping was collected in ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) tubes and stored at −70 °C. DNA was extracted from whole blood using DNAeasy blood and tissue kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). HLA-Cw6 allele was detected by standard polymerase chain reaction using allele-specific primers (forward 5′-TACTA-CAACC AGAGCGAGGA-3′; reverse 5′-GCTCGAGCCATA-CATCCA-3′).

**Statistical analysis**

The primary end point was the proportion of PASI 90 after 16 weeks of treatment. Assuming an enrolment rate of 60% for Cw6-POS patients, a one-sided alpha level of 0.025 and a power of 80%, 365 patients (219 Cw6-POS and 146 Cw6-NEG) were deemed sufficient to evaluate if the response in terms of PASI 90 in the Cw6-NEG cohort was not < 12% compared with the Cw6-POS cohort. The full analysis set includes all the enrolled patients (n = 434). The safety set includes all enrolled patients who were given at least one dose of the study drug (n = 434). The intent-to-treat (ITT) set includes all patients in the safety population with at least one postbaseline efficacy assessment and Cw6 assessment (n = 430). The primary and secondary objectives were evaluated on the ITT population, and all safety evaluations were performed on the safety population. The proportion of patients who achieved PASI 90 at 16 weeks was presented with a one-tailed 97.5% confidence interval (CI) of the difference between Cw6-POS and Cw6-NEG. For patients who prematurely discontinued the study for any reason or patients with missing visits (after baseline), PASI was imputed using the last observation carried forward (LOCF) approach.

Nonresponder imputation analysis was also performed. If all PASI postbaseline efficacy values were missing, then these missing values were not imputed, and this patient was removed from the analysis. A regression analysis was performed taking into account the patients’ baseline characteristics, in order to balance the two cohorts. Differences in baseline characteristics between cohorts were explored. A Cox proportional hazard regression model was used to analyse time taken to achieve PASI 90/PASI 75.

All statistical analyses were performed using SAS software 9.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, U.S.A.).

**Results**

Patient demographics and disease characteristics

In total, 533 patients were screened and 434 were enrolled in the study (Fig. 1). Of these, 185 (42.6%) patients were Cw6-POS and 246 (56.7%) were Cw6-NEG; HLA-Cw6 was not assessed for three patients. Overall, 402 (92.6%) patients completed the core phase (24 weeks), in particular 172 (93.0%) Cw6-POS and 227 (92.3%) Cw6-NEG patients. The main reasons for discontinuation were AEs (overall 7.7%; Cw6-POS 3.8%; Cw6-NEG 3.7%) and lack of efficacy (overall 1.6%; Cw6-POS 0.5%; Cw6-NEG 2.4%).
Baseline demographics and disease characteristics, by overall study population and cohorts, are shown in Table 1. The mean ± SD age of the overall study population was 45.2 ± 13.2 years; Cw6-POS patients were significantly younger than Cw6-NEG patients (42.7 ± 13.1 vs. 47.2 ± 12.9; P < 0.001). No significant difference was observed with regard to sex, race, mean ± SD weight (kg), mean ± SD BMI (kg m⁻²), mean ± SD waist circumference (cm), mean ± SD age at diagnosis of psoriasis (years), number of patients with PsA, mean ± SD time since first diagnosis of psoriasis (years), mean ± SD baseline PASI score, and Baseline IGA mod 2011 score.
to sex; 71.7% were males (Cw6-POS 67.6%; Cw6-NEG 74.8%; \( P = 0.086 \)). Cw6-NEG patients had a significantly higher mean ± SD weight (83.97 ± 17.74 vs. 76.67 ± 15.04 kg; \( P < 0.001 \)), body mass index (28.33 ± 5.62 vs. 25.89 ± 4.29 kg m\(^{-2}\); \( P < 0.0001 \)) and waist circumference (99.33 ± 15.26 vs. 92.61 ± 13.77 cm; \( P = 0.001 \)) compared with Cw6-POS patients. Mean ± SD age at diagnosis of psoriasis was significantly lower (\( P = 0.002 \)) in Cw6-POS patients (23.7 ± 12.9 years) compared with Cw6-NEG patients (30.3 ± 14.2 years). In total, 16.2% Cw6-POS and 22.4% Cw6-NEG patients had concomitant PsA (\( P = 0.499 \)). Baseline mean ± SD PASI was comparable between the two cohorts (Cw6-POS 20.7 ± 8.99; Cw6-NEG 21.5 ± 9.99; \( P = 0.777 \)). Most patients had a baseline IGA mod 2011 score ≥ 3, in particular 54.4% with three and 42.6% with four, indicating moderate or severe disease, respectively.

**Efficacy**

At week 16, PASI 90 (primary variable) was achieved in 80.4% (\( n = 148 \)) of Cw6-POS and 79.7% (\( n = 196 \)) of Cw6-NEG patients [odds ratio (OR) 0.753, 95% CI 0.44–1.28; \( P = 0.293 \)] considering the nonresponder imputation approach (Fig. 2a). The proportion of patients with a PASI 90 response at week 16 assessed using the LOCF approach was equivalent to nonresponder imputation analysis. In particular, considering the LOCF approach, the nonadjusted difference between cohorts was −1.3 with a one-tailed 97.5% CI of −8.8, confirming that the proportion of Cw6-NEG patients who achieved PASI 90 was not less than that observed in the Cw6-POS cohort. In both cohorts, no differences were observed in mean ± SD absolute PASI at week 16 (Cw6-POS 1.36 ± 3.58; Cw6-NEG 1.18 ± 2.29) and week 24 (Cw6-POS 1.15 ± 3.34; Cw6-NEG 1.27 ± 2.90 (Fig. 2b). The repeated measure analysis of absolute change from baseline in PASI total score over time showed that there was no significant difference in the PASI changes between the two cohorts at all time points (Fig. 3), in particular at week 16 the

![Graph](image-url)
least-squares mean of the difference (SE) was \(-0.08 (1.15)\) (\(P = 0.944\)) and 0.15 (1.17) at week 24 (\(P = 0.898\)). Secukinumab showed a rapid onset of action with a mean ± SD PASI score reduction from baseline of \(-75.6 ± 21.1\)% and \(-73.2 ± 22.3\)% at week 4 in the Cw6-POS and Cw6-NEG cohorts, respectively.

Clinical response to secukinumab was assessed by measuring the 50%/75%/90%/100% improvement from baseline in

Fig 4. The proportion of HLA-Cw6-positive (Cw6-POS) and HLA-Cw6-negative (Cw6-NEG) patients achieving a (a) 50% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) from baseline (PASI 50); (b) 75% improvement in PASI (PASI 75); (c) 90% improvement in PASI (PASI 90); (d) 100% improvement in PASI (PASI 100); and (e) Investigator’s Global Assessment modified in 2011 (IGA mod 2011) 0/1 scores following secukinumab treatment (nonresponder imputation analysis, intent-to-treat set). Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.
PASI (PASI 50, PASI 75, PASI 90 and PASI 100, respectively) IGA mod 2011. The proportion of PASI 50/PASI 75/PASI 90/ PASI 100 responders was similar across the cohorts with numerically comparable results throughout the 24 weeks of treatment (Fig. 4). PASI 75 was achieved in 92.9% of Cw6-POS and 92.7% of Cw6-NEG patients (OR 0.706, 95% CI 0.31–1.62; P = 0.412) at week 16, and these responses remained stable until week 24. The largest difference between the cohorts (6.39%, 95% CI −3.09 to 15.65) was observed for PASI 100 at 16 weeks (Cw6-POS 59.2%; Cw6-NEG 52.8%). At week 24, PASI 100 responses were numerically similar in both cohorts (Cw6-POS 62.0%; Cw6-NEG 61.0%; difference 0.98%, 95% CI −8.31 to 10.12).

Differences between the cohorts in IGA mod 2011 0/1 responses varied from −1.98% to 4.03%. By week 16 >80% of patients achieved IGA mod 2011 0/1 scores in both cohorts (Cw6-POS 84.8%; Cw6-NEG 85.4%; difference −0.58; 95% CI −7.64 to 6.10), and efficacy was maintained until week 24. The mean ± SD IGA mod 2011 scores were similar for both cohorts at week 16 (Cw6-POS 0.5 ± 0.84; Cw6-NEG 0.6 ± 0.78) and week 24 (Cw6-POS 0.5 ± 0.82; Cw6-NEG 0.5 ± 0.90).

Median time taken to achieve PASI 90 was 57 days for the Cw6-POS cohort and 58 days for the Cw6-NEG cohort (hazard ratio (HR) 1.086, 95% CI 0.89–1.33; P = 0.429). Median time taken to achieve PASI 75 was 29 days for both Cw6-POS and Cw6-NEG patients (HR 1.025, 95% CI 0.84–1.25; P = 0.807).

Table 2 Summary of adverse events (safety set)

|                               | Cw6-POS (n = 185) | Cw6-NEG (n = 246) | Overall (n = 431) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of patients with TEAEs| 79 (42.7%)       | 122 (49.6%)      | 202 (46.5%)      |
| Number of patients with serious TEAEs | 7 (3.8%)       | 14 (5.7%)        | 21 (4.8%)        |
| Number of patients with TEAEs related to the study drug | 22 (11.9%)     | 42 (17.1%)       | 64 (14.7%)       |
| Number of patients with TEAEs leading to discontinuation of the study drug | 7 (3.8%)       | 11 (4.5%)        | 18 (4.1%)        |
| Deaths                        | 0 (0)            | 1 (0.4%)         | 1 (0.2%)         |
| TEAEs of special interest     |                  |                  |                  |
| Any TEAE                      | 0 (0)            | 3 (1.2%)         | 3 (0.7%)         |
| Neutropenia                   | 0 (0)            | 2 (0.8%)         | 2 (0.5%)         |
| Candida infection             | 0 (0)            | 1 (0.4%)         | 1 (0.2%)         |

Data are n (%). A patient with multiple adverse events (AEs) is counted only once in the ‘Any TEAE’ row. A patient with multiple AEs within a system organ class is counted only once for that system organ class. A patient with multiple AEs with the same preferred term is counted only once for that preferred term.

Safeguard (HLA-Cw6 allele and efficacy of secukinumab, A. Costanzo et al.

In total, 202 (46.5%) patients experienced at least one treatment-emergent AE (TEAE). The overall summary of TEAEs is shown in Table 2. The most commonly reported TEAEs in the overall population (incidence ≥ 2%) were hypertension (4.4%), pruritus (3.0%), headache (2.8%), arthralgia (2.5%), influenza (2.3%) and increased blood creatine phosphokinase (2.3%). Among the cohorts, 79 (42.7%) Cw6-POS patients and 122 (49.6%) Cw6-NEG patients experienced TEAEs (P = 0.295). Serious TEAEs were reported in seven (3.8%) and 14 (5.7%) patients in the Cw6-POS and Cw6-NEG cohorts, respectively. One patient in the Cw6-NEG cohort died of cardiac circulatory arrest during the study. Among the TEAEs of special interest, two cases of neutropenia and one case of Candida sp. infection were reported in the Cw6-NEG cohort. No clinically relevant changes were observed in vital signs and electrocardiographic findings.

Discussion

The results of this study demonstrate the efficacy of secukinumab in patients with moderate-to-severe plaque-type psoriasis, irrespective of HLA-Cw6 status. In this study population, Cw6-POS patients were younger and had a significantly lower age at diagnosis compared with Cw6-NEG patients, as previously reported.13,10–32 A high PASI 90 response was achieved with secukinumab 300 mg irrespective of the HLA-Cw6 status, with a fast reduction in absolute PASI. This is in contrast to the results reported by other studies, wherein ustekinumab has shown higher PASI 90 and 75 response rates in Cw6-POS patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis than Cw6-NEG patients.7–19,33,34 In our study, PASI 75 was achieved in >90% in both cohorts by week 16. More than half of the patients had complete skin clearance (PASI 100) by week 16 in both cohorts. These results are in agreement with the CLEAR study, wherein up to 50% of patients treated with secukinumab 300 mg achieved PASI 100 by weeks 12 and 20.22 The absolute PASI scores were reduced to a similar extent in both Cw6-POS and Cw6-NEG patients throughout the study period. These results show the consistent efficacy of secukinumab in both cohorts. A retrospective study in 18 patients, stratified for HLA-Cw6 allele, treated with secukinumab showed no significant difference in average PASI improvement between the two groups (Cw6-POS 74.2%, Cw6-NEG 62.4%; P = 0.397). These results are in agreement with our study with a larger cohort of patients.35

Consistent with the high PASI results, approximately 85% of patients had achieved IGA 0/1 scores (clear/almost clear skin) at week 16, and the scores were comparable across the two cohorts. These results are clinically meaningful, as most of the patients had moderate-to-severe disease at baseline, and show that secukinumab provides a high level of skin clearance, irrespective of HLA-Cw6 status. Secukinumab showed a rapid onset of action; by week 4 a PASI score reduction of almost 75% with respect to baseline was observed in both cohorts. The median

|                                | Cw6-POS (n = 185) | Cw6-NEG (n = 246) | Overall (n = 431) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of patients with TEAEs| 79 (42.7%)       | 122 (49.6%)      | 202 (46.5%)      |
| Number of patients with serious TEAEs | 7 (3.8%)       | 14 (5.7%)        | 21 (4.8%)        |
| Number of patients with TEAEs related to the study drug | 22 (11.9%)     | 42 (17.1%)       | 64 (14.7%)       |
| Number of patients with TEAEs leading to discontinuation of the study drug | 7 (3.8%)       | 11 (4.5%)        | 18 (4.1%)        |
| Deaths                        | 0 (0)            | 1 (0.4%)         | 1 (0.2%)         |
time to reach PASI 90 and PASI 75 was similar for both cohorts, even if Cw6-POS patients had a shorter time of clearance during the initial 8-week period, and there was minimal difference beyond 2 months. These results are relevant as more than half of the patients in this study were Cw6-NEG. The safety profile of secukinumab was similar to that reported in previous studies.\textsuperscript{22,23,36,37} No statistically significant difference was detected in the rate of TEAEs in both cohorts. No new or unexpected safety signals were reported in the study.

In conclusion, secukinumab demonstrated efficacy and safety in patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis. Although Cw6-POS and Cw6-NEG patients have distinct clinical features, the present study showed that secukinumab achieved similar clinical responses in both cohorts after 24 weeks of treatment. Determination of HLA-Cw6 status for secukinumab therapy is unnecessary, as it is highly effective regardless of HLA-Cw6 status.

Acknowledgments
The authors thank Sumeet Sood PhD, and Divya Chandrasekhar PhD (Novartis HealthCare, Hyderabad, India) for editorial and medical writing support, which was funded by Novartis Farma S.p.A., Italy, in accordance with the Good Publication Practice (GPP3) guidelines (http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3) by Fondazione Roma. A.C. is supported by an INNODERM H2020 grant (687866) and by an Italian Ministry of Health grant (CO-2013-02356463).

References
1 Alwan W, Nestle FO. Pathogenesis and treatment of psoriasis: exploiting pathophysiological pathways for precision medicine. Clin Exp Rheumatol 2015; 33:S2–S6.
2 Krueger JG, Bowcock A. Psoriasis pathophysiology: current concepts of pathogenesis. Am Rheum Dis 2005; 64 (Suppl. 2): ii30–6.
3 Martin DA, Towne JE, Kricorian G et al. Different responses to ustekinumab of two HLA-Cw6-positive homozygous twins with psoriasis. Acta Derm Venerol 2016; 96:858–9.
4 Caldara G, Sgambaro A, Fanali C et al. HLA-Cw6 allele, NFKB1 and NFKBIA polymorphisms play no role in predicting response to etanercept in psoriatic patients. Pharmacogenet Genomias 2016; 26:423–7.
5 Mabuchi T, Ota T, Manabe Y et al. HLA-C*12:02 is a susceptibility factor in late-onset type of psoriasis in Japanese. J Dermatol 2014; 41:697–704.
6 Nair RP, Stuart P, Henseler T et al. Localization of psoriasis-susceptibility locus PSORS1 to a 60-kb interval telomeric to HLA-C. Am J Hum Genet 2000; 66:1833–44.
7 Tsoi LC, Stuart PE, Tian C et al. Large scale meta-analysis characterizes genetic architecture for common psoriasis associated variants. Nat Commun 2017; 8:15382.
8 Bowcock AM, Cookson WO. The genetics of psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and atopic dermatitis. Hum Mol Genet 2004; 13(Spec. No. 1):R43–55.
28 Weisman S, Pollack CR, Gottschalk RW. Psoriasis disease severity measures: comparing efficacy of treatments for severe psoriasis. J Dermatol Treat 2003; 14:158–65.
29 Langley RG, Feldman SR, Nyirady J et al. The 5-point Investigator’s Global Assessment (IGA) scale: a modified tool for evaluating plaque psoriasis severity in clinical trials. J Dermatol Treat 2015; 26:23–31.
30 Enerback C, Martinsson T, Inerot A et al. Evidence that HLA-Cw6 determines early onset of psoriasis, obtained using sequence-specific primers (PCR-SSP). Acta Derm Venereol 1997; 77:273–6.
31 Gudjonsson JE, Karason A, Runarsdottir EH et al. Distinct clinical differences between HLA-Cw*0602 positive and negative psoriasis patients – an analysis of 1019 HLA-C- and HLA-B-typed patients. J Invest Dermatol 2006; 126:740–5.
32 Ikaheimo I, Tiilikainen A, Karvonen J et al. HLA risk haplotype Cw6, DR7, DQA1*0201 and HLA-Cw6 with reference to the clinical picture of psoriasis vulgaris. Arch Dermatol Res 1996; 288:363–5.
33 Li K, Huang CC, Randazzo B et al. HLA-C*06:02 allele and response to IL-12/23 inhibition: results from the ustekinumab phase 3 psoriasis program. J Invest Dermatol 2016; 136:2364–71.
34 van Vugt LJ, van den Reek J, Coenen MJH et al. A systematic review of pharmacogenetic studies on the response to biologics in patients with psoriasis. Br J Dermatol 2018; 178:86–94.
35 Anzengruber F, Drach M, Maul JT et al. Therapy response was not altered by HLA-Cw6 status in psoriasis patients treated with secukinumab: a retrospective case series. J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol 2018; 32:e274–6.
36 Mrowietz U, Leonardi CL, Girolomoni G et al. Secukinumab retreatment-as-needed versus fixed-interval maintenance regimen for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: a randomized, double-blind, noninferiority trial (SCULPTURE). J Am Acad Dermatol 2015; 73:27–36.
37 Papp KA, Langley RG, Sigurdeirsson B et al. Efficacy and safety of secukinumab in the treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase II dose-ranging study. Br J Dermatol 2013; 168:412–21.

Appendix 1

The SUPREME study group includes all the authors and the following investigators: Ugo Bottoni*, Valeria Brazzelli, Martina Burlando, Franca Cantoresi, Alessandra Capo, Angelo Cattaneo, Francesco Cusano, Paolo Dapavo, Micol Del Giglio, Vito Di Lernia, Sergio Di Nuzzo, Daniele Dusti, Maria Concetta Fargnoli, Chiara Franchi, Marco Galluzzo, Alberto Ghilardi, Katharina Hansel, Francesco Loconsole, Viviana Lora, Piergiorgio Malagoli, Valentina Mastrandrea, Matteo Megna, Santo Raffaele Mercuri, Maria Letizia Musumeci, Luigi Naldi, Alessandra Narcisi, Annamaria Offidani, Gianluca Pagnanelli, Manuela Papini, Annalisa Patrizi, Monica Pau, Giovanni Pellacani, Ketty Peris, Severino Persechino, Stefano Piaserico, Lucia Pietroleonardo, Francesca Prignano, Alberto Reseghetti, Marco Romanelli, Filomena Russo, Riccardo Sirna, Nevena Skroza, Giuseppe Stinc, Sara Trevisini, Cristina Zane, Leonardo Zichichi, Antonio Zini.

*Deceased