Impact of tanezumab on health status, non-work activities and work productivity in adults with moderate-to-severe osteoarthritis

Philip G. Conaghan1,2*, Lucy Abraham3, Lars Viktrup4 and Paul Cislo5

Abstract
Background: To evaluate the impact of tanezumab on health status, non-work activities, and work productivity in a pooled analysis of two large phase 3 osteoarthritis (OA) studies.

Methods: Subcutaneous tanezumab (2.5 mg and 5 mg) was tested in double-blind, placebo-controlled, 16-week (NCT02697773) and 24-week (NCT02709486) clinical trials in patients with moderate-to-severe OA of the hip or knee. At baseline and week 16, all patients completed EQ-5D-5L and the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment-OA (WPAI-OA) activity impairment item. Those currently employed also completed WPAI-OA work time missed, impairment while working, and overall work impairment items. Between-group differences in least squares (LS) mean changes from baseline at week 16 were tested using analysis of covariance.

Results: Of 1545 pooled patients, 576 were employed at baseline. Improvements in EQ-5D-5L index value at week 16 were significantly greater for the tanezumab 2.5-mg group (difference in LS means [95% confidence interval (CI), 0.03 [0.01, 0.05]; p = 0.0083) versus placebo. Percent improvements (95% CI) in activity impairment (−5.92 [−8.87, −2.98]; p < 0.0001), impairment while working (−7.34 [−13.01, −1.68]; p = 0.0112), and overall work impairment (−7.44 [−13.22, −1.67]; p = 0.0116) at week 16 were significantly greater for the tanezumab 2.5-mg group versus placebo. Results for the tanezumab 5-mg group were generally comparable to the tanezumab 2.5-mg group, although, compared with placebo, percent improvement (95% CI) in work time missed was significantly greater for the tanezumab 5-mg group (−3.40 [−6.47, −0.34]; p = 0.0294), but not the tanezumab 2.5-mg group (−0.66 [−3.63, 2.32]; p = 0.6637).

Conclusions: These pooled analyses showed that health status, non-work activities, and work productivity were significantly improved following tanezumab administration, compared with placebo.

Trial registration: ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02697773, NCT02709486.

Keywords: Daily activities, EQ-5D, Health status, Nerve growth factor, Osteoarthritis, Work productivity, WPAI

Introduction
Osteoarthritis (OA) has a detrimental impact on health-related quality of life [1, 2], especially when symptoms are severe [3]. Health status is worse than in the general population [4, 5]; daily activities can be difficult [6] due to pain, joint stiffness, and impact on physical functioning; and patients can experience work disability [7], reduced work productivity [7, 8], and risk of work loss [9, 10].
Standard pharmacologic treatment with agents such as acetaminophen, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and tramadol/other opioids [11–13] can be inadequate or inappropriate [12].

The nerve growth factor monoclonal antibody tanezumab is being investigated for the treatment of moderate-to-severe OA pain. As part of the phase 3 OA program using subcutaneous administration, two randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials were completed and the data reported separately [14, 15]. Combined, these studies provide a large data set to evaluate the effect of tanezumab compared with placebo on quality of life outcomes, including non-work activities and work productivity. This exploratory pooled analysis of these two phase 3 studies therefore evaluated the impact of tanezumab on health status, non-work activities, and work productivity.

Methods
Study details
Both phase 3 studies were randomized, double-blind, and placebo-controlled with subcutaneous administration of study treatment at 8-week intervals [14, 15]. Study 1, with primary endpoint at week 16, was a dose-titration study conducted in North America (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02697773. First submitted 11/02/2016) with three arms: placebo at baseline and week 8, tanezumab 2.5 mg at baseline and week 8, or tanezumab 2.5 mg at baseline and tanezumab 5 mg at week 8 [14]. Both tanezumab dose groups met all three co-primary endpoints, with significantly greater improvements than placebo at week 16 in Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC*) Pain and Physical Function, and patient’s global assessment of OA (PGA-OA) [14]. Study 2, with primary endpoint at week 24, enrolled patients in Europe or Japan (NCT02709486. First submitted 26/02/2016) who received three doses of placebo, tanezumab 2.5 mg, or tanezumab 5 mg (at baseline, week 8, and week 16) [15]. The primary analysis of this study showed that tanezumab 2.5 mg resulted in significant improvements at week 24 in WOMAC Pain and Physical Function (though not PGA-OA), whereas tanezumab 5 mg was significant on all three co-primary endpoints [15].

Secondary efficacy data from the two studies were pooled for the current analyses at week 16, a time point common to both studies [14, 15] and the primary endpoint for the shorter of the two studies [14]. Data from the Study 1 dose-titration arm (tanezumab 2.5 mg at baseline and tanezumab 5 mg at week 8) were pooled with the Study 2 tanezumab 5 mg group (Fig. 1).

Key eligibility criteria included radiographically confirmed (Kellgren-Lawrence [KL] [16] grade ≥2 in the index joint) moderate-to-severe OA of the hip or knee [14, 15]. Patients were required to have WOMAC [17] Pain and Physical Function subscale scores ≥5 in the index joint and PGA-OA “fair”, “poor”, or “very poor” at baseline, and a documented history that pain relief from acetaminophen was insufficient, that pain relief from NSAIDs was inadequate or they could not be taken due
to intolerance or contraindication, and that either tramadol or opioids resulted in inadequate pain relief or could not be taken due to intolerance or contraindication (or were unwilling to take opioids) [14, 15].

Registered trademark of Nicholas Bellamy (CDN, EU, USA).

Assessments

At baseline and week 16, in both studies, all patients completed EQ-5D-5L (developed by EuroQol) [18] and the activity impairment item of the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment-OA (WPAI-OA). Those currently employed also completed WPAI-OA work time missed, impairment while working, and overall work impairment items.

The self-administered EQ-5D-5L [18] questionnaire determined current overall health status (“today”), each of five dimensions (mobility, self-care, usual activity, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression) being assessed on a 5-level severity scale (no/slight/moderate/severe/extreme problems). A UK value set was used to transform a health state to a single summary index value, with higher score indicating better health status. Possible scores ranged from −0.59 (“worse than dead”) to 1.00 (the value of full health). In patients with hip or knee OA, a minimal detectable change (MDC) at the group level, which expresses the minimal magnitude of change in EQ-5D-5L between groups above which the observed change is likely to be real and not just measurement error, has been estimated to be 0.01 [19]. In addition, health status was rated on the EQ visual analog scale (VAS) in response to, “We would like to know how good or bad your health is today,” scored on a 100-mm scale (0 = the worst health you can imagine, 100 = the best health you can imagine).

The six-item, self-administered WPAI-OA of the Knee or Hip v2.0 questionnaire assessed the impact of OA over the past 7 days on four metrics [20], each subscale score being expressed as an impairment percentage (0–100%), with higher values indicating greater impairment and less productivity. Percent activity impairment was derived from the question, “During the past seven days, how much did your OA of the knee or hip affect your ability to do your regular daily activities, other than work at a job?,” which was answered on a 0 to 10 scale (0 = no effect on my daily activities, 10 = completely prevented me from doing my daily activities) and the score multiplied by 10. Those who selected “yes” to the question, “Are you currently employed?” also completed the work-related items. Percent work time missed was calculated (number of hours missed/number of hours worked) x 100) in response to the questions, “During the past seven days, how many hours did you miss from work due to problems associated with your OA of the knee or hip?” and, “During the past seven days, how many hours did you actually work?” Percent impairment while working was derived from the question, “During the past seven days, how much did your OA of the knee or hip affect productivity while you were working?,” which was answered on a 0 to 10 scale (0 = no effect on my work, 10 = completely prevented me from working) and the score multiplied by 10. Percent overall work impairment was calculated by combining absenteeism and presenteeism (% of work missed + [% of work not missed] x [% impairment while at work]). MDCs have not been published for WPAI-OA. In patients with psoriatic arthritis, individual improvements of 15–20% in WPAI items were reported to be minimal clinically important differences [21]. In Crohn’s disease, improvements of 8.5% (activity impairment), 6.5% (absenteeism), 6.1% (presenteeism), and 7.3% (overall work impairment) were reported to be minimally important differences between treatment groups [22].

Statistical analysis

All randomized patients who received at least one dose of study medication were included in the analyses. Between-group differences in least squares (LS) mean changes from baseline at week 16 were tested using analysis of covariance (ANCOVA). No correction for multiplicity was made for these exploratory pooled analyses, and missing data were assumed to be missing at random.

SAS software version 9.4 (Cary, North Carolina, USA) was used for all statistical analyses, and p ≤ 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Demographics and baseline characteristics

The overall population comprised a total of 1545 patients of whom 576 were employed at baseline (Table 1). There were no notable differences between the employed subgroup and the overall population, except the employed subgroup was younger and included a higher proportion of patients with hip index joints (Table 1). Of the overall population, 696 were enrolled in North America [14], 743 were enrolled in Europe [24], and 106 were enrolled in Japan [24]. Across the three treatment groups (placebo, tanezumab 2.5 mg, tanezumab 5 mg) in the overall population, the index joint was a knee for 83.9–84.4% of patients, KL grade 3 for 43.0–45.1%, and WOMAC Pain score (mean) was 6.9 (Table 1).

At baseline across the three treatment groups (means), EQ-5D-5L index value was 0.47–0.48 and activity impairment was 67.88–68.53% in the overall population. At baseline in the employed subgroup, work time missed
Table 1  Demographics and baseline characteristics of the pooled population

| Overall population | Tanezumab 2.5 mg | Tanezumab 5 mg |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Male, n (%)        | 161 (31.3)       | 171 (33.3)     |
| Female, n (%)      | 353 (68.7)       | 343 (66.7)     |
| Age, years, mean (SD) | 62.5 (9.8)     | 63.2 (9.4)     |
| White/Black or African American/Asian/other or unknown, n/n/n | 403/60/47/4 | 423/45/43/5 |
| Disease duration, years, mean (SD) | 8.7 (8.1) | 7.9 (7.8) | 8.3 (7.2) |
| Index joint, n (%) | 80 (15.6)        | 83 (16.1)      |
| Kellgren-Lawrence grade of index joint, n (%) | 124 (24.1) | 109 (21.2) | 117 (22.7) |
| Average pain in the index joint (pain diary) score, mean (SD) | 7.01 (1.48) | 6.97 (1.50) | 7.00 (1.46) |
| WOMAC Pain score, mean (SD) | 6.9 (1.1) | 6.9 (1.1) | 6.9 (1.1) |
| WOMAC Physical Function score, mean (SD) | 7.0 (1.1) | 7.0 (1.0) | 7.0 (1.1) |
| PGA-OA score, mean (SD) | 3.5 (0.6) | 3.5 (0.6) | 3.5 (0.6) |
| Employment status, n (%) | 194 (37.7) | 192 (37.4) | 190 (36.8) |
| EQ-VAS, mean (SD) | 0.48 (0.20) | 0.48 (0.19) | 0.47 (0.20) |
| Percent activity impairment, mean (SD), n | 67.88 (14.00), 509 | 67.94 (15.53), 509 | 68.53 (14.59), 516 |
| Percent work time missed, mean (SD), n | 7.05 (18.85), 169 | 6.64 (17.79), 176 |
| Percent impairment while working, mean (SD), n | 58.86 (20.90), 166 | 59.25 (21.61), 174 |

| Subgroup who were employed (at baseline) | Tanezumab 2.5 mg | Tanezumab 5 mg |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Placebo (n = 194)                        | 85 (44.3)        | 57.7 (8.1)     |
| Tanezumab 2.5 mg (n = 192)              | 107 (55.7)       | 57.4 (8.8)     |
| Tanezumab 5 mg (n = 190)                | 126 (66.3)       | 57.4 (8.8)     |

Notes:
- Some of these data were published previously [23]: Adapted from Schnitzer TJ, Berenbaum F, Conaghan PG, Dworkin RH, Gatti D, Yang R, et al. Single and composite endpoints of within-patient improvement in symptoms: pooled tanezumab data in patients with osteoarthritis. Rheumatol Ther. 2021;8:1759–74 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)
- The number of patients employed at week 16 was n = 181 (placebo), n = 177 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 176 (tanezumab 5 mg)
- Sample size n = 514 (placebo), n = 512 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 515 (tanezumab 5 mg) for overall population, and n = 194 (placebo), n = 190 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 189 (tanezumab 5 mg) for employed subgroup
- Sample size n = 514 (placebo), n = 512 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 515 (tanezumab 5 mg) for overall population, and n = 194 (placebo), n = 190 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 189 (tanezumab 5 mg) for employed subgroup
- Sample size n = 506 (placebo), n = 508 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 511 (tanezumab 5 mg) for overall population, and n = 192 (placebo), n = 190 (tanezumab 2.5 mg), n = 188 (tanezumab 5 mg) for employed subgroup

PGA-OA Patient's global assessment of osteoarthritis, SD Standard deviation, VAS Visual analog scale, WOMAC Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index
due to OA was 6.64–7.75%, impairment while working was 58.86–59.25%, and overall work impairment was 60.41–61.07% across the three treatment groups (Table 1).

**Health status**

Improvements were seen in all three treatment groups across the five dimensions of the EQ-5D-5L, with notably more patients in the least impaired categories and fewer patients in the most impaired categories at week 16, compared with baseline (Fig. 2).

At week 16, improvements from baseline in EQ-5D-5L index value were significantly greater for the tanezumab 2.5 mg group (LS mean difference 0.03; \( p = 0.0083 \)) and the tanezumab 5 mg group (LS mean difference 0.04; \( p = 0.0015 \)), compared with placebo (Table 2).

At week 16, improvements from baseline in EQ VAS assessment of current health status were significantly greater for the tanezumab 5 mg group (LS mean difference 2.49; \( p = 0.0157 \)) but not the tanezumab 2.5 mg group (LS mean difference 1.63; \( p = 0.1148 \)), compared with placebo (Table 2).

**Non-work activities and work productivity**

At week 16, percent improvements from baseline in activity impairment were significantly greater for the tanezumab 2.5 mg group (LS mean difference −5.92; \( p < 0.0001 \)) and the tanezumab 5 mg group (LS mean difference −5.96; \( p < 0.0001 \)), compared with placebo (Table 3).

In the employed subgroup, the percent improvement from baseline in work time missed was significantly greater for the tanezumab 5 mg group (LS mean difference −3.40; \( p = 0.0294 \)) but not the tanezumab 2.5 mg group (LS mean difference −0.66; \( p = 0.6637 \)), compared with placebo at week 16 (Table 3). The percent improvement from baseline in impairment while working was significantly greater for the tanezumab 2.5 mg group (LS mean difference −7.34; \( p = 0.0112 \)) and the tanezumab 5 mg group (LS mean difference −7.87; \( p = 0.0084 \)), compared with placebo (Table 3). The percent improvement from baseline in overall work impairment was significantly greater for the tanezumab 2.5 mg group (LS mean difference −7.44; \( p = 0.0116 \)) and the tanezumab 5 mg group (LS mean difference −8.37; \( p = 0.0060 \)), compared with placebo (Table 3).

**Discussion**

These analyses of pooled data showed that patients with moderate-to-severe OA experienced greater improvement in health status, non-work activities, and work productivity at week 16 following subcutaneous tanezumab administration, compared with placebo.

The baseline health status of the current pooled population (EQ-5D-5L index value, mean 0.47–0.48; Table 1) was similar to that of patients with physician-diagnosed knee or hip OA (EQ-5D-5L index value, mean 0.532 [25] and patients with self-reported physician-diagnosed moderate or severe OA of various joints taking prescription medication (EQ-5D-5L index value, mean ~0.4) [3]. The health status of these populations with OA is lower than that reported for the general population (EQ-5D-5L index value, mean 0.856–0.924) [25–27]. Comparisons with other diseases (e.g. cancer, diabetes, and heart disease [27]) are confounded by methodological differences (e.g. patient inclusion criteria, disease severity). The majority of the current pooled population had moderate or severe problems with mobility and usual activities at baseline, and almost half had moderate or severe problems with self-care (Fig. 2). A large placebo response was observed across EQ-5D-5L dimensions (Fig. 2), likely reflecting the placebo effects observed on measures of pain and function in the individual studies [14, 15].

Improvements in health status were significantly greater for tanezumab than placebo in the current analyses, and the LS mean group differences relative to placebo in EQ-5D-5L index value (0.03–0.04; Table 2) were well above the published group level MDC (0.01) [19]. Changes in EQ VAS reflected those of the EQ-5D-5L index value, but did not reach significance compared with placebo for the tanezumab 2.5 mg group. Few prospective intervention studies have reported the impact of pharmacologic treatment compared with placebo on EQ-5D in patients with OA [28, 29]. Studies of tapentadol and oxycodone have reported inconsistent benefits on EQ-5D index value [30–32], and there was no improvement from baseline in EQ VAS following a single injection of hyaluronic acid for OA [33].

The impact of OA on activities of daily living is considerable [6, 34]. In the current pooled population with OA of the hip or knee, baseline activity impairment (67.88–68.53%; Table 1) was similar to that reported for patients with moderate or severe OA of various joints taking prescription medication in a cross sectional study of patients in Europe (~68%) [3]. The percent improvements in activity impairment were significantly greater following tanezumab treatment than with placebo in the current analyses, with LS mean improvements from baseline in all three groups (23.49–29.45; Table 3) exceeding the minimal clinically important difference (individual patient change) of 20% reported for psoriatic arthritis [21], although the LS mean improvement relative to placebo (5.92–5.96; Table 3) did not achieve the 8.5% minimally important difference (between groups) reported
Fig. 2  EQ-5D-5L responses at baseline and week 16. Observed data. All patients completed the EQ-5D-5L. Statistical analysis of dimension responses was not conducted. Sample sizes at baseline: \( n = 513 \) (placebo), \( n = 513 \) (tanezumab 2.5 mg), \( n = 517 \) (tanezumab 5 mg). Sample sizes at week 16: \( n = 453 \) (placebo), \( n = 481 \) (tanezumab 2.5 mg), \( n = 482 \) (tanezumab 5 mg)
for Crohn's disease [22]. Improvements from baseline were seen in the mobility and usual activities dimensions of the EQ-5D-5L (Fig. 2). The benefit of tanezumab contrasts with the poorer functional outcomes associated with persistent opioid use in patients with OA [35].

At baseline in the current study, the overall work impairment (60.41–61.07%; Table 1) of the employed subgroup was less than that reported for patients with moderate or severe OA of various joints taking prescription medication in a cross sectional study of patients

| Table 2 | Change from baseline at week 16 in health status |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
|         | Placebo (n = 514) | Tanezumab 2.5 mg (n = 514) | Tanezumab 5 mg (n = 517) |
| EQ-SD-5L index value |         |                                  |                         |
| n     | 452 | 480 | 482 |
| LS mean (SE) change from baseline | 0.15 (0.01) | 0.18 (0.01) | 0.19 (0.01) |
| Difference in LS means (95% CI) | 0.03 (0.01, 0.05) | 0.04 (0.01, 0.06) |         |
| p value | 0.0083 | 0.0015 |         |
| EQ VAS |         |                                  |                         |
| n     | 452 | 480 | 482 |
| LS mean (SE) change from baseline | 10.09 (0.84) | 11.72 (0.83) | 12.58 (0.82) |
| Difference in LS means (95% CI) | 1.63 (–0.40, 3.65) | 2.49 (0.47, 4.52) |         |
| p value | 0.1148 | 0.0157 |         |

Observed data. All patients completed the EQ-SD-5L and EQ VAS. UK value set was used. ANCOVA model with independent variables for Study 1 and Study 2: index joint stratification factor, baseline response to question, baseline diary average pain score, and treatment

| ANCOVA Analysis of covariance, CI Confidence interval, LS Least squares, SE Standard error, VAS Visual analog scale |

| Table 3 | Change from baseline at week 16 in non-work activities and work productivity |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
|         | Placebo (n = 514) | Tanezumab 2.5 mg (n = 514) | Tanezumab 5 mg (n = 517) |
| Non-work activities |         |                                  |                         |
| Percent activity impairment |         |                                  |                         |
| n     | 448 | 476 | 482 |
| LS mean (SE) change from baseline | –23.49 (1.22) | –29.41 (1.20) | –29.45 (1.19) |
| Difference in LS means (95% CI) | –5.92 (–8.87, –2.98) | –5.96 (–8.89, –3.02) |         |
| p value | <0.0001 | <0.0001 |         |
| Work productivity |         |                                  |                         |
| Percent work time missed |         |                                  |                         |
| n     | 127 | 142 | 126 |
| LS mean (SE) change from baseline | –0.20 (1.19) | –0.86 (1.16) | –3.60 (1.21) |
| Difference in LS means (95% CI) | –0.66 (–3.63, 2.32) | –3.40 (–6.47, 0.34) |         |
| p value | 0.6637 | 0.0294 |         |
| Percent impairment while working |         |                                  |                         |
| n     | 124 | 140 | 125 |
| LS mean (SE) change from baseline | –18.59 (2.29) | –25.94 (2.22) | –26.46 (2.31) |
| Difference in LS means (95% CI) | –7.34 (–13.01, –1.68) | –7.87 (–13.71, –2.03) |         |
| p value | 0.0112 | 0.0084 |         |
| Percent overall work impairment |         |                                  |                         |
| n     | 124 | 140 | 125 |
| LS mean (SE) change from baseline | –19.12 (2.33) | –26.56 (2.26) | –27.49 (2.36) |
| Difference in LS means (95% CI) | –7.44 (–13.22, –1.67) | –8.37 (–14.32, –2.42) |         |
| p value | 0.0116 | 0.0060 |         |

Observed data. WPAI-OA of the Knee or Hip v2.0 questionnaire. All patients completed the activity impairment item. Those currently employed also completed work time missed, impairment while working and overall work impairment items. ANCOVA model included the following independent variables for Study 1 vs Study 2, index joint stratification factor, baseline response to question, baseline diary average pain score, and treatment

| ANCOVA Analysis of covariance, CI Confidence interval, LS Least squares, SE Standard error, WPAI-OA Work Productivity and Activity Impairment-osteoarthritis |
in Europe (~79%) [3]. Work time missed over the last 7 days was also low in the current population (6.64–7.75%; Table 1) compared with the rate of absenteeism in that study (~59%) [3]. Differences in the version of the questionnaire used may account for some of these differences: the current study used the WPAI-OA (work time missed over the last 7 days due to OA) whereas the European study used the general health version (WPAI-GH: work time missed over the last 7 days due to “one’s health”). Improvements in work productivity (percent overall work impairment) were significantly greater for tanezumab than placebo in the current analyses, with the LS mean improvements relative to placebo (7.44–8.37; Table 3) exceeding the 7.3% minimally important difference reported for Crohn’s disease [22]. Even with the low baseline values, reductions in work time missed were significantly greater for the tanezumab 5 mg group compared with placebo, but did not reach significance for the tanezumab 2.5 mg group. Prospective intervention studies in OA using the WPAI are lacking, although imputed improvements in work productivity were reported for tapentadol compared with placebo [36].

There were few differences between the two tanezumab-treated groups in the current analyses, and the pooling strategy may be a factor in this. The similarity in design of the two studies, including eligibility criteria, assessments, and endpoints, makes the data set valuable for pooling. However, the dosing regimens differed, and data from the Study 1 dose-titration arm (tanezumab 2.5 mg at baseline and tanezumab 5 mg at week 8) were pooled with the Study 2 tanezumab 5 mg group for analyses at week 16. Potentially, the Study 1 dose-titration arm could have reduced the treatment effects seen for the pooled tanezumab 5 mg group.

The limitations of the current findings include their exploratory nature. The studies were powered for their primary endpoints, and not for these secondary endpoints. The patients recruited to the two studies differed geographically and the impact of these different healthcare systems and work cultures on the data are not known; subgroup analyses were not conducted based on geography. The employment details (jobs, industries) of the patients in the current studies were not available, precluding analyses of indirect costs.

Conclusions
These pooled analyses showed that improvements in health status, non-work activities, and work productivity were significantly greater at week 16 following subcutaneous tanezumab administration, compared with placebo, in patients with moderate-to-severe OA.

Abbreviations
CI: Confidence interval; KL: Kellgren-Lawrence; LS: Least squares; MDC: Minimal detectable change; NSAID: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug; OA: Osteoarthritis; PGA-OA: Patient’s global assessment of OA; WOMAC: Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index; WPAI-GH: Work Productivity and Activity Impairment–General Health; WPAI-OA: Work Productivity and Activity Impairment–Osteoarthritis.

Supplementary Information
The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1186/s12891-022-05029-x.

Additional file 1.

Acknowledgments
Some of these data were presented at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 23rd Annual European Congress (ISPOR-EU), November 16-19, 2020. Medical writing support was provided by Kim Russell, PhD, of Engage Scientific Solutions and was funded by Pfizer and Eli Lilly and Company. Philip G. Conaghan is supported in part by the UK National Institute for Health Research Leeds Biomedical Research Centre. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

Authors’ contributions
All authors contributed to the conception or design of the study, and the analysis or interpretation of data. All authors contributed to drafting the manuscript and revising it critically for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final version to be published and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Funding
The study was sponsored by Pfizer and Eli Lilly and Company. Manuscript authors from Pfizer contributed to the study design, data collection, management, and interpretation of data; and the preparation, review, and approval of the manuscript. Manuscript authors from Eli Lilly and Company contributed to the study design; interpretation of data; and the preparation, review, and approval of the manuscript.

Availability of data and materials
Data sharing statement: Upon request, and subject to certain criteria, conditions, and exceptions (see https://www.pfizer.com/science/clinical-trials/trial-data-and-results for more information), Pfizer will provide access to individual de-identified participant data from Pfizer-sponsored global interventional clinical studies conducted for medicines, vaccines, and medical devices (1) for indications that have been approved in the US and/or EU or (2) in programs that have been terminated (ie, development for all indications has been discontinued). Pfizer will also consider requests for the protocol, data dictionary, and statistical analysis plan. Data may be requested from Pfizer trials 24 months after study completion. The de-identified participant data will be made available to researchers whose proposals meet the research criteria and other conditions, and for which an exception does not apply, via a secure portal. To gain access, data requestors must enter into a data access agreement with Pfizer.

Declarations
Ethics approval and consent to participate
The study protocols were approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board or Independent Ethics Committee at each participating investigational center (main IRB for Study 1: Schulman Associates IRB/
Advarra, Ohio, United States; for Study 2, see supplementary Appendix 1). All patients provided written informed consent prior to entering the studies. The studies were conducted in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki and International Conference on Harmonisation Good Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Consent for publication Not applicable.

Competing interests PGC has done consultancies or speakers bureaus for AbbVie, AstraZeneca, EMD Serono, Flexion Therapeutics, Galapagos, Gilead, Novartis, and Pfizer. LA and PC are employees of Pfizer with stock and/or stock options. LV is an employee of Eli Lilly and Company and owns stock in Lilly.

Author details 1 Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds and NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, UK. 2 Leeds Institute of Rheumatics and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds LS7 4SA, UK. 3 Pfizer Ltd, Tadworth, UK. 4 Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN, USA. 5 Pfizer Inc, New York, NY, USA.

Received: 15 September 2021 Accepted: 3 January 2022

Published online: 01 February 2022

References

1. Osteoarthritis Research Society International. White paper: osteoarthritis: a serious disease. Submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; 2016. https://www.oarsi.org/sites/default/files/docs/2016/oarsi_white_paper_ca_serious_disease_121416_1.pdf. Accessed 1 Sept 2020.

2. Xie F, Kovic B, Jin X, He X, Wang M, Silvestre C. Economic and humanistic burden of osteoarthritis: a systematic review of large sample studies. Pharmacoeconomics. 2016;34:1087–100.

3. Conaghan PG, Doane MJ, Jaffe DH, Dragon E, Abraham L, Viktrup L, et al. Are pain severity and current pharmacotherapies associated with quality of life, work productivity, and healthcare utilisation for people with osteoarthritis in five large European countries? Clin Exp Rheumatol. 2021;39:819–28.

4. Salaffi F, Di Carlo M, Carotti M, Farah S, Ciapetti A, Gutierrez M. The impact of different rheumatic diseases on health-related quality of life: a comparison with a selected sample of healthy individuals using SF-36 questionnaire, EQ-SD and SF-6D utility values. Acta Biomed. 2019;89:541–57.

5. Dibonaventura MD, Gupta S, McDonald M, Sadosky A, Pettitt D, Silverman S. Impact of self-rated osteoarthritis severity in an employed population: cross-sectional analysis of data from the national health and wellness survey. Health Qual Life Outcomes. 2012;10:30.

6. Clynès MA, Jamerson KA, Edwards MH, Cooper C, Dennison EM. Impact of osteoarthritis on activities of daily living: does joint site matter? Aging Clin Exp Res. 2019;31:1049–56.

7. Xiang L, Low AHL, Leung YY, Fong W, Gan WH, Graves N, et al. Work disability in rheumatic diseases: baseline results from an inception cohort. Int J Rheum Dis. 2020;23:1040–9.

8. Nakata K, Tsui T, Vietri J, Jaffe DH. Work impairment, osteoarthritis, and health-related quality of life among employees in Japan. Health Qual Life Outcomes. 2018;16:64.

9. Sharif B, Garner R, Sanmartín C, Flannagan WM, Hennessy D, Marshall DA. Risk of work loss due to illness or disability in patients with osteoarthritis: a population-based cohort study. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2016;55:861–8.

10. Laires PA, Canhão H, Rodrigues AM, Eusébio M, Gouveia M, Branco JC. The impact of osteoarthritis on early exit from work: results from a population-based study. BMC Public Health. 2018;18:472.

11. Geenen R, Overman CL, Christensen R, Arsenio P, Capela S, Huisinge KL, et al. EULAR recommendations for the health professional’s approach to pain management in inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis. Ann Rheum Dis. 2018;77:797–807.

12. Bannuru RR, Osani MC, Vaysbreet EE, Arden NK, Bennell K, Bierma-Zeinstra SMA, et al. OARSI guidelines for the non-surgical management of knee, hip, and polyarticular osteoarthritis: Osteoarthritis Cartilage. 2019;27:1578–89.

13. Kolasinska SL, Neogi T, Hochberg MC, Oatis C, Guyatt G, Block J, et al. 2019 American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation guideline for the management of osteoarthritis of the hand, hip, and knee. Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken). 2020;72:149–62.

14. Schnitzer TJ, Euston R, Pang S, Levinson DJ, Pixton G, Viktrup L, et al. Efficacy and safety of tanezumab for the treatment of osteoarthritis pain in the hip or knee: A randomized clinical trial. JAMA. 2019;322:57–68.

15. Berenbaum F, Blanco FJ, Guermazi A, Miki K, Yamabe T, Viktrup L, et al. Subcutaneous tanezumab for osteoarthritis of the hip or knee: efficacy and safety results from a 24-week randomised phase 3 study with a 24-week follow-up period. Ann Rheum Dis. 2020;79:800–10.

16. Kellgren JH, Lawrence JS. Radiological assessment of osteo-arthrosis. Ann Rheum Dis. 1957;16:494–502.

17. Theiler R, Spielberger J, Bischoff HA, Bellamy N, Huber J, Kroezen S. Clinical evaluation of the WOMAC 3.0 OA Index in numeric rating scale format using a computerized touch screen version. Osteoarthritis Cartilage. 2002;10:479–81.

18. Herdman M, Gudex C, Lloyd A, Janssen M, Kind P, Parkin D, et al. Development and preliminary testing of the new five-level version of EQ-SD (EQ-SD-5L). Qual Life Res. 2011;20:1727–36.

19. Bilbao A, Garcia-Perez L, Arenaza JC, Garcia I, Ariza-Cardiel G, Trujillo-Martin E, et al. Psychometric properties of the EQ-SD-5L in patients with hip or knee osteoarthritis: reliability, validity and responsiveness. Qual Life Res. 2018;27:2897–908.

20. Reilly MC, Zbrozek AS, Dukes EM. The validity and reproducibility of a work productivity and activity impairment instrument. Pharmacoeconomics. 1993;4:353–65.

21. Tillet W, Lin CY, Zbrozek A, Sprabery AT, Birt J. A threshold of meaning for work disability improvement in psoriatic arthritis measured by the work productivity and activity impairment questionnaire. Rheumatol Ther. 2019;6:79–91.

22. Sandborn W, Reilly M, Brown M, Brabant Y, Tan S, Gerlier L. Determination of the minimally important difference in WPAI: CD score that indicates a relevant impact on work productivity (Abstract P-046). Inflamm Bowel Dis. 2008;14:524.

23. Schnitzer TJ, Berenbaum F, Conaghan PG, Dworkin RH, Gatti D, Yang R, et al. Single and composite endpoints of within-patient improvement in symptoms: pooled tanezumab data in patients with osteoarthritis. Rheumatol Ther. 2021;8:1759–74.

24. Berenbaum F, Langford R, Perez S, Miki K, Blanco FJ, Yamabe T, et al. Subcutaneous tanezumab for osteoarthritis: is the early improvement in pain and function meaningful and sustained over 24 weeks? Eur J Pain. 2021;25:1525–39.

25. Martín-Fernández J, García-Maroto R, Bilbao A, García-Pérez L, Gutiérrez-Teira B, Molina-Sigüero A, et al. Impact of lower limb osteoarthritis on health-related quality of life: a cross-sectional study to estimate the expressed loss of utility in the Spanish population. PLoS One. 2020;15:e0228398.

26. Thompson AJ, Turner AJ. A comparison of the EQ-SD-3L and EQ-SD-5L Pharmacoeconomics. 2020;35:375–91.

27. Mitchell PM, Al-Janabi H, Richardson J, Iezzi A, Coast J. The relative importance of health status and capability wellbeing: a multi-country study. PLoS One. 2015;10:e0143590.

28. Ruchlin HS, Insgina RP. A review of health-utility data for osteoarthritis: implications for clinical trial-based evaluation. Pharmacoeconomics. 2008;26:925–35.

29. Zrubka Z, Rencz F, Závada J, Golicki D, Rupel VF, Simon J, et al. EQ-SD studies in musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases in eight central and eastern European countries: a systematic literature review and meta-analysis. Rheumatol Int. 2017;37:1957–77.

30. Añifaldo M, Etropolitan MS, Kuperwasser B, Kelly K, Okamoto A, Van Hove I, et al. Efficacy and safety of tapentadol extended release compared with oxycodone controlled release for the management of moderate to severe chronic pain related to osteoarthritis of the knee: a randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled phase III clinical trial. Clin Drug Invest. 2010;30:489–505.

31. Serre A, Lange B, Steup A. Tapentadol prolonged-release for moderate-to-severe chronic osteoarthritis knee pain: a double-blind, randomized, placebo- and oxycodone controlled release-controlled study. Curr Med Res Opin. 2017;33:1423–32.

32. Lange B, Sohns M, Temporo J, Elling C. Efficacy and safety of tapentadol prolonged release formulation in the treatment of elderly patients with moderate-to-severe chronic osteoarthritis knee pain: a pooled analysis of two double-blind, randomized, placebo-, and active-controlled trials. Curr Med Res Opin. 2018;34:2113–23.
33. Pereira LC, Schweizer C, Mouflari S, Krähenbühl SM, Favre J, Gremion G, et al. Gait analysis following single-shot hyaluronic acid supplementation: a pilot randomized double-blinded controlled trial. Pilot Feasibility Stud. 2019;5:56.
34. Stamm TA, Pieber K, Crevenna R, Dorner TE. Impairment in the activities of daily living in older adults with and without osteoporosis, osteoarthritis and chronic back pain: a secondary analysis of population-based health survey data. BMC Musculoskeletal Disord. 2016;17:139.
35. Shah D, Zhao X, Wei W, Gandhi K, Dwivedi N, Webster L, et al. A longitudinal study of the association of opioid use with change in pain interference and functional limitations in a nationally representative cohort of adults with osteoarthritis in the United States. Adv Ther. 2020;37:819–32.
36. Lerner D, Chang H, Rogers WH, Benson C, Chow W, Kim MS, et al. Imputing at-work productivity loss using results of a randomized controlled trial comparing tapentadol extended release and oxycodone controlled release for osteoarthritis pain. J Occup Environ Med. 2012;54:933–8.

Publisher’s Note
Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.