Secukinumab effect in two types of arthritis seen in children and adolescents at two years

**Efficacy and Safety of Secukinumab in Enthesitis-related Arthritis and Juvenile Psoriatic Arthritis:**

**Background:**

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common type of arthritis in children and teenagers, beginning before the age of 16. JIA is an autoimmune disease, meaning that the body's immune system is overactive, and it can dramatically impact a child's life, causing pain, tenderness, and stiffness in joints all over the body. JIA is an umbrella term describing seven different types of arthritis; arthritis; rheumatoid factor-negative polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; systemic idiopathic arthritis.

**Purpose:**

The study looked at the effect of secukinumab on the symptoms of two subtypes of JIA: juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) and enthesitis-related arthritis (ERA). To do this, a specific method was used which involved measuring the time to flare in secukinumab treatment compared with the time to flare in patients given a 'dummy' injection containing no active ingredient, called a placebo.

**Methods:**

The study sponsored both the writing of this plain language media summary and the writing of the full EULAR 2021 scientific abstract. The study was supported by Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland.

**Results:**

- Significant improvements in joint symptoms were observed in the secukinumab group compared with the placebo group.
- More patients achieved and maintained JIA ACR 30 and JIA ACR 70 with secukinumab compared to placebo at two years.
- The study showed that secukinumab significantly reduces the risk of joint symptoms worsening in JPsA and ERA.

**Conclusion:**

Secukinumab could potentially offer a much-needed treatment for juvenile psoriatic arthritis and enthesitis-related arthritis. Further research is needed to confirm these findings and explore the potential benefits of this treatment for JPsA and ERA.

**Who sponsored this study?**

Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland

**Further information**

Please refer to the full EULAR 2021 scientific abstract for more detailed information. The study was sponsored by Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland, who also sponsored both the writing of this plain language media summary and the writing of the full EULAR 2021 scientific abstract.