This document provides a short summary of this study for a general audience. You can find more information in the scientific summary of the study. A link to the summary is provided at the end of this document.

Study names

Short Title: A study to assess how well belimumab works when restarted after a six-month break in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Full Scientific Title: An open-label, non-randomised, 52-week study to evaluate treatment holidays and rebound phenomenon after treatment with belimumab 10 milligram per kilogram in systemic lupus erythematosus subjects.

Study Number: 116027

Who sponsored this study?

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
GSK Clinical Support Help Desk
Website: clinicalsupporthd.gsk.com/contact.html
Email: GSKClinicalSupportHD@gsk.com

General information about the clinical study

When was this study done?

The study started in May 2014 and ended in December 2018.

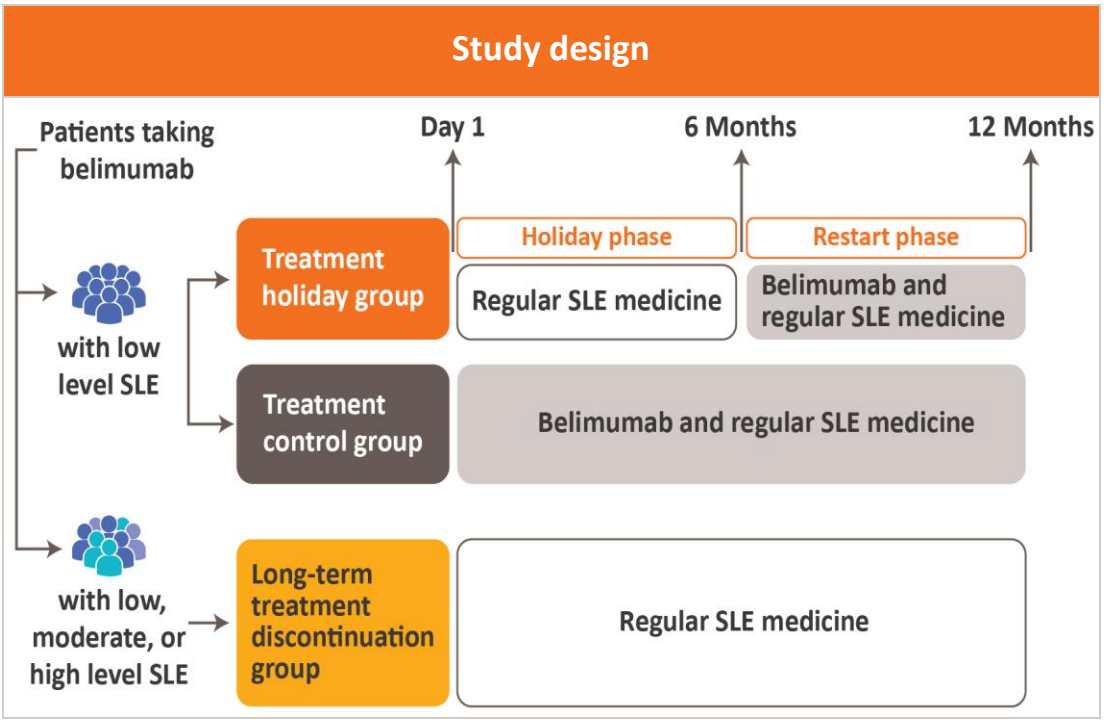
What was the main reason for this study?

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a long-term autoimmune disease in which proteins called autoantibodies are made in the blood. Autoantibodies attack the body's own tissues and organs. Common symptoms include skin rash and joint pain. Systemic lupus erythematosus can also affect other body organs. Patients' SLE symptoms vary. Based on the severity of the symptoms, SLE level is classified as low, moderate, or high.

Belimumab is a medicine that decreases autoantibodies. In this study, researchers wanted to compare how well belimumab works in patients with stable low level SLE who restarted belimumab after a six-month break (treatment holiday) with those who received belimumab continuously (treatment control).

Which medicines were studied?

Patients who were included in a previous belimumab study, were placed in one of the three treatments groups, as shown in figure below.

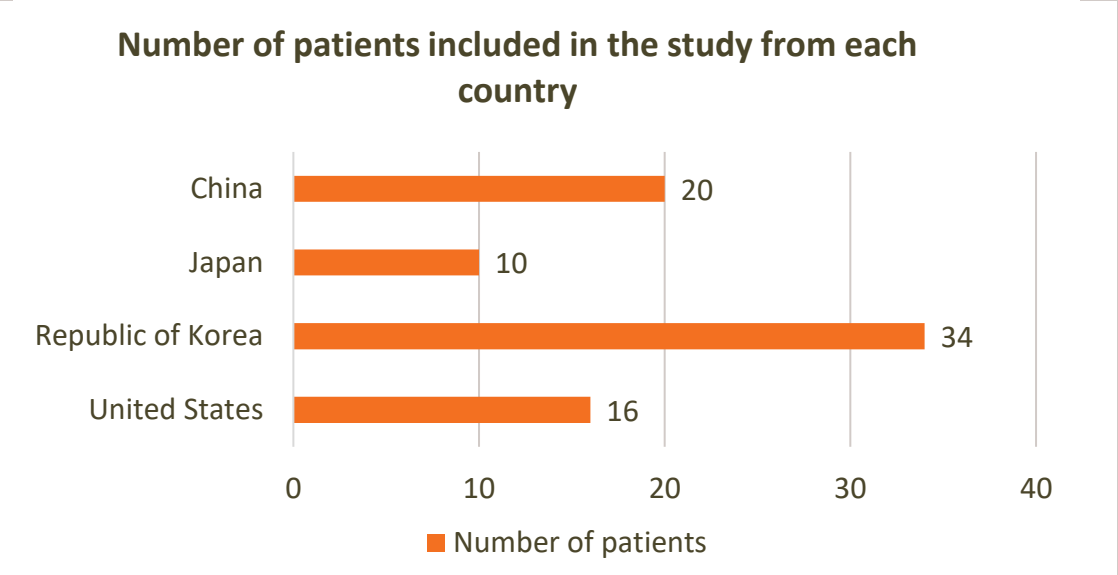


Patients in the treatment holiday group took a six-month break from belimumab (holiday phase) following which they restarted belimumab for the next six months (restart phase).

During the restart phase of the treatment holiday group and in the treatment control group, patients received belimumab (10 milligram per kilogram [mg/kg]) directly through a vein every month. Throughout the course of the study, patients continued taking their regular SLE medicine. The patients knew which treatment they received. This is called an open-label study.

Where was this study done?

Study sites were in four countries.



Which patients were included in this study?

Studies have a list of requirements for patients who can enrol (inclusion criteria) and those who can't (exclusion criteria). For this study, the main inclusion and exclusion criteria are listed below.

Men and women were included in the study if they:

- Were at least 18 years old.
- Received belimumab 10 mg/kg for a minimum of 6 months in a previous belimumab studies.

Men and women were excluded from the study if they had:

- Any other disease(s) that the study doctor thought could affect the results of the study.
- Any unwanted medical event (adverse event) during previous belimumab studies that the study doctor thought would put the patient at risk.

Additionally, patients were excluded from treatment holiday group and treatment control group, if they:

- Had worsening of SLE symptoms (flare) within 30 days before starting the study.
- Use of medicine(s) that the study doctor thought could affect the results of the study.

The table below shows the gender and age of the patients who were included in the study.

Patients included in the study			
	Treatment holiday group **12 patients**	**Treatment control group** **29 patients**	**Long-term treatment discontinuation group** **39 patients**
Gender - Number of patients (percent)			
Female	9 (75%)	27 (93%)	35 (90%)
Male	3 (25%)	2 (7%)	4 (10%)
Age - in years			
Range	24 to 52	23 to 59	21 to 67
Average	38	41	39

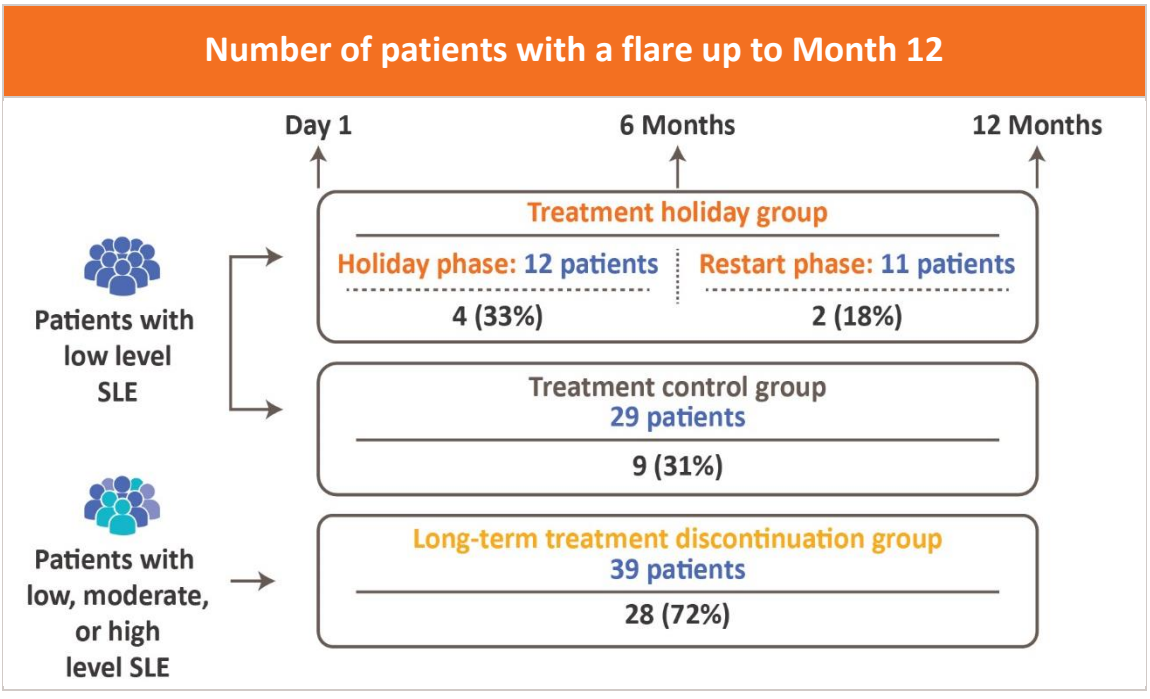
The overall results and safety results for the treatment holiday group have been presented separately for holiday phase and restart phase. Out of the 12 patients who started holiday phase, one patient did not enter restart phase.

For more detailed information about the patients included in this study, see the scientific results summary (a link to the summary is provided at the end of this document).

What were the overall results of the study?

Study doctors scored patients' SLE symptoms using scoring scales at the start of the study (baseline) and once every month for 12 months. A flare scored on the SLE flare index (SFI) scale shows worsening of SLE. An SFI flare is referred to as "flare" below. Study doctors recorded the date of a patient's first flare.

This study aimed to compare the time to first flare for the control and holiday treatment groups by comparing the median time to first flare. However, as less than half the patients in these two groups experienced a flare, the median time could not be calculated, and the comparison could not be made. The figure below shows the number of patients (and percentage) with a flare.



In the long-term treatment discontinuation group, the median days to first flare was 183 days. More information about the study results is available in the scientific results summary (a link to the summary is provided at the end of this document).

What were the side effects?

Adverse events can happen to people when they receive a medicine. Study doctors record these events. A summary of all these events can be found in the scientific results summary (a link to the summary is provided at the end of this document).

If the study doctor thinks that the event was caused by the study medicine, they record this as a possible side effect (adverse reaction).

In this summary, "side effects" refer to those events that the study doctor thinks may have been caused by the study medicine. The side effects in this summary may be different to those in the Informed Consent or other documents related to the study medicine.

No serious side effects were reported by patients in this study.

Two non-serious side effects were reported by two or more patients in any treatment group. The table below shows the number of patients (percent) who had these side effects.

Non-serious side effects reported by two or more patients in any treatment group				
	Treatment holiday group		Treatment Control group	Long-term treatment discontinuation Group
	Holiday Phase 12 patients	Restart Phase 11 patients	 29 patients	 39 patients
Nose and throat infection (common cold)	0	0	2 (7%)	0
Upper respiratory tract infection	2 (17%)	0	1 (3%)	0

How has this study helped patients and researchers?

This was a Phase III study. Phase III studies collect information about how well new medicines work and how safe they are. A small number of patients took part in this study, particularly in the treatment holiday group and treatment control group. The number of patients with flares in these groups was low. The side effects reported in

this study were limited in number and non-serious. Researchers could not draw conclusions about taking a treatment holiday from belimumab in patients with SLE.

Are there plans for further studies?

Other studies on belimumab in patients with SLE have been conducted and more are underway.

Where can I find more information about this study?

Clinical studies have unique study numbers that are included in publications and other information about the study. The unique study number associated with this study is shown below with an internet link to the scientific summary and other information.

The scientific summary includes more details about the requirements for study enrolment, the study visit schedule, results from other endpoints and more detailed information about adverse events.

Organisation	Website	Study Number
United States National Institutes of Health (NIH)	www.clinicaltrials.gov	NCT02119156[1]

Your doctor can help you understand more about this study and the results. Speak to your doctor about the treatment options available in your country. You should not make changes to your care based on the results of this or any single study. Keep taking your current treatment unless instructed by your doctor.

We would like to thank the patients who contributed to this study. The results of this study will help answer scientific questions about treating patients with SLE.

The content for this document was finalised by GSK on 15th of January 2020. The information in this summary does not include additional information available after this date.

[1] https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02119156