

FocuSSed: tocilizumab reduces ECM degradation but not formation

In the FocuSSed Phase 3 trial (SSc, n=210), tocilizumab reduced degradation biomarkers C3M, C4M, and CRPM vs. placebo at weeks 24 and 48. PRO-C3 (fibrogenesis) was not affected. Anti-IL6 therapy addresses tissue destruction but leaves fibroblast-driven collagen formation unchecked.⁵

Understanding mode-of-action with ECM biomarkers

Study info and aims

Study info

Study: FocuSSed Trial, Phase III

Patients: SSc, n=210

Target: Il-6 inhibitor



Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

Bio-markers

Formation: PRO-C3

Degradation: C3M, C4M, CRPM

Aim

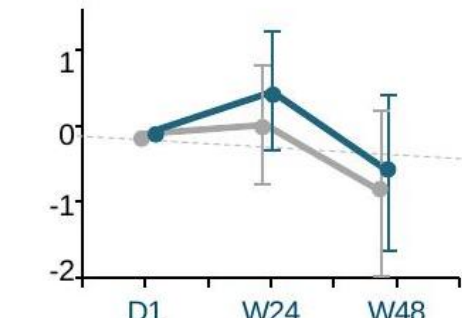
Investigate the change of both ECM degradation and formation biomarkers in response the anti-IL6R, tocilizumab in patients with SSC

Results

Degradation biomarkers are reduced in response to tocilizumab, indicating a positive effect on tissue destruction. PRO-C3 is not affected – lack of anti-fibrotic effect of tocilizumab

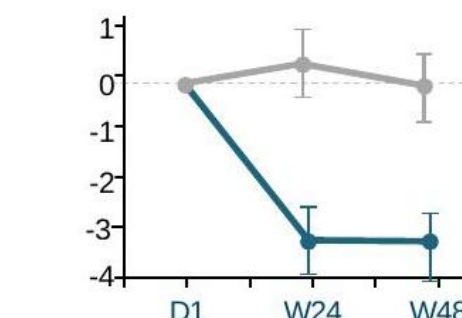
Tocilizumab reduce ECM degradation biomarkers

Change in PRO-C3 (ng/mL)



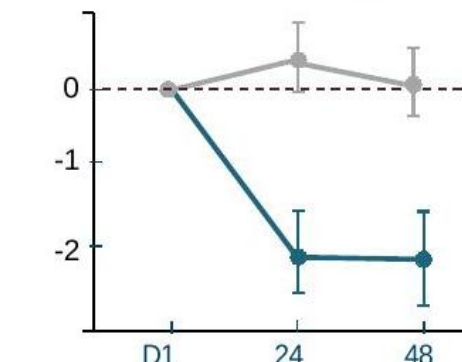
Time	Placebo	Tocilizumab
D1	0	0
W24	0.1	0.6
W48	-0.8	-0.5

Change in C3M (ng/mL)



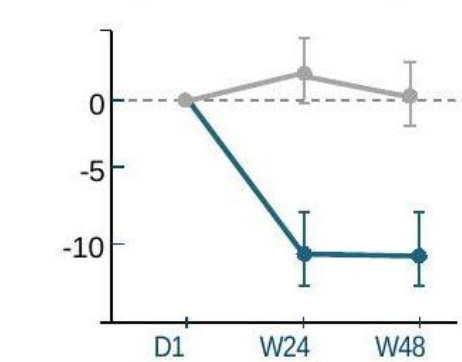
Time	Placebo	Tocilizumab
D1	0	0
W24	0.4	-3.2
W48	0.1	-3.2

Change in C4M (ng/mL)



Time	Placebo	Tocilizumab
D1	0	0
24	0.3	-2.1
48	0.1	-2.1

Change in CRPM (ng/mL)



Time	Placebo	Tocilizumab
D1	0	0
W24	0.3	-10.1
W48	0.1	-10.1

Legend

● Placebo

● Tocilizumab

Sheng et al, Clinical Immunology, 2023

 NORDIC BIOSCIENCE

Exploratory