

## CLINICAL-ALIMENTARY TRACT

# HIGHER VS STANDARD ADALIMUMAB INDUCTION DOSING REGIMENS AND TWO MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES: RANDOMIZED SERENE CD

## TRIAL RESULTS

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**KEYWORDS:** Biologic Agent; Monoclonal Antibody; Inflammatory Bowel Disease; TNF Inhibitor.

**BACKGROUND & AIMS:** Dose-optimization strategies for biologic therapies in Crohn's disease (CD) are not well established. The SERENE CD (Study of a Novel Approach to Induction and Maintenance Dosing With Adalimumab in Patients With Moderate to Severe Crohn's Disease) trial evaluated higher

vs standard adalimumab induction dosing and clinically adjusted (CA) vs therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) maintenance strategies in patients with moderately to severely active CD. METHODS: In this phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter trial, eligible adults (Crohn's Disease Activity Index score of 220-450, endoscopic evidence of mucosal inflammation, and previous failure of standard therapies) were randomized to higher induction regimen (adalimumab 160 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, and 3; n = 308) or standard induction regimen (adalimumab 160 mg at week 0 and 80 mg at week 2; n = 206) followed by 40 mg every other week from week 4 onward. Co-primary end points included clinical remission at week 4 and endoscopic response at week 12. At week 12, patients were re-randomized to maintenance therapy optimized by Crohn's Disease Activity Index and C-reactive protein (CA; n = 92) or serum adalimumab concentrations and/or clinical criteria (TDM; n = 92); exploratory end points were evaluated at week 56. RESULTS: Similar proportions of patients receiving higher induction regimen and standard induction regimen achieved clinical remission at week 4 (44% in both;  $P = .939$ ) and endoscopic response at week 12 (43% vs 39%, respectively,  $P = .462$ ).

Week 56 efficacy was similar between CA and TDM. Safety profiles were comparable between dosing regimens. CONCLUSIONS: Higher induction regimen was not superior to standard induction regimen, and CA and TDM maintenance strategies were similarly efficacious. Adalimumab therapy was well tolerated, and no new safety concerns were identified. (ClinicalTrials.gov, Number: NCT02065570).

*Abbreviations used in this paper:* AAAD, anti-adalimumab antibody positivity; AE, adverse event; CA, clinically adjusted; CD, Crohn's disease; CDAI, Crohn's Disease Activity Index; ew, every week; eow, every other week; HIR, higher induction regimen; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; IBDQ, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Questionnaire; ITT, intent to treat; OLE, open-label extension; PRO, patient-reported outcome; SES- CD, Simple Endoscopic Score for Crohn's disease; SIR, standard induction regimen; TDM, therapeutic drug monitoring.

<b>WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW</b>
<b>BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT</b>
Adalimumab is approved for moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease in adults with inadequate response to conventional therapy. The SERENE CD trial evaluated higher vs standard induction and clinically adjusted vs therapeutic dose-monitoring maintenance strategies.
<b>NEW FINDINGS</b>
Higher induction dosing was similar in efficacy and safety to the approved standard induction dosing. Maintenance dose adjustment primarily by serum adalimumab levels was not more efficacious than clinically adjusted dosing.
<b>LIMITATIONS</b>
All maintenance-study end points were exploratory. Placebo-adjusted effects were not evaluated.
<b>IMPACT</b>
The SERENE CD trial confirms the appropriateness of the approved adalimumab induction dose regimen. Although exploratory, no clinical advantage for therapeutic drug monitoring over clinical adjustment during maintenance therapy was observed.

Crohn's disease (CD) is a chronic, progressive, and transmural inflammatory bowel disease with gastrointestinal and systemic symptoms, including abdominal pain, diarrhea, weight loss, and fatigue, that negatively impact patient quality of life.<sup>1</sup> Treatment for CD has traditionally focused on symptomatic improvement, clinical remission, and withdrawal of corticosteroids. In recent years, endoscopic outcomes have also become important treatment goals. Improvement in endoscopic outcomes has been associated with favorable patient outcomes, including higher rates of persistent clinical remission<sup>2</sup> and fewer hospitalizations and surgeries.<sup>3</sup> However, as endoscopic outcomes may be more difficult to achieve than clinical outcomes, we hypothesized that more intensive treatment may be required to achieve the treatment goal of endoscopic improvement in addition to clinical remission and symptomatic improvement.<sup>4</sup>

Adalimumab is a human IgG1 monoclonal antibody that binds with high affinity and specificity to tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  and inhibits this cytokine's activity by blocking its interaction with the p55 and p75 cell surface tumor necrosis factor receptors. Adalimumab is approved in the United States,<sup>5</sup> Europe,<sup>6</sup> and globally<sup>7</sup> for treating adults with moderately to severely active CD. The standard approved adalimumab induction dose regimen for adults with CD is 160 mg, followed by 80 mg 2 weeks later.<sup>5,8,9</sup> The recommended maintenance-dose regimen is 40 mg every other week (eow) from week 4 onward.<sup>10</sup> Patients who experience a decrease in their response to adalimumab 40 mg eow may benefit from a dose increase to adalimumab 40 mg every week (ew) or 80 mg eow. These approaches are approved in the European label<sup>6</sup>; however, dose escalation is not approved in the United States.

Exposure-response relationships from the CLASSIC and GAIN studies suggested that higher adalimumab serum concentrations were associated with greater efficacy (data on file), and adalimumab trough concentrations were higher in patients who achieved endoscopic response in the Japanese DIAMOND study.<sup>11</sup> Thus, it was hypothesized that a higher induction dose regimen may lead to increased efficacy for more stringent end points, including endoscopic improvement. During maintenance therapy, dose escalation may improve outcomes for patients who experience a loss of response to adalimumab. In the CHARM study, more than one-quarter of patients met protocol-defined criteria for adalimumab dose escalation; of these, 37% achieved clinical remission after dose escalation.<sup>12</sup> Approaches used to guide and optimize dose adjustment during maintenance therapy may provide another strategy to further enhance efficacy. One of the suggested approaches is

proactive therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM), when measurements of serum drug concentrations are used to optimize the clinical benefit of therapies. TDM is an area of considerable interest in the ever-evolving field of inflammatory bowel disease management.<sup>13-15</sup>

The SERENE CD (Study of a Novel Approach to Induction and Maintenance Dosing With Adalimumab in Patients With Moderate to Severe Crohn's Disease) trial was designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of higher vs standard adalimumab induction regimens and to compare the efficacy and safety of TDM vs clinically adjusted (CA) maintenance strategies in adult patients with moderately to severely active CD.

## Methods

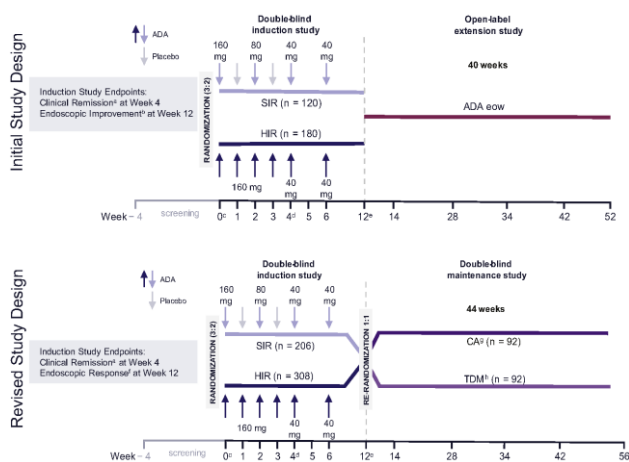
### STUDY DESIGN

The SERENE CD study was a phase 3, randomized, doubleblind, multicenter, clinical trial conducted across 93 sites in 19 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States). As originally designed, the SERENE CD study included a 12-week, 2-arm induction study, followed by a separate 40-week open-label extension (OLE) study. Although the study was ongoing, a consensus paper from the International Organization for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease recommended that endoscopic remission be defined using the Simple Endoscopic Score for Crohn's Disease (SES-CD) 0-2, while emphasizing that further research was warranted to define endoscopic targets predicting favorable outcomes.<sup>16</sup> On the basis of this evolving interest in more stringent endoscopic end points, as well as the evaluation of TDM, the study was amended. The sample size was increased to provide sufficient power to include an additional ranked secondary end point (International Organization for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease-defined endoscopic remission [ie, SES-CD  $\leq 2$ ]) to the induction study. This increased sample size also allowed the addition of an exploratory 44-week, doubleblind maintenance study to investigate TDM, maximizing the study design to address the high interest in TDM for adalimumab<sup>13-15</sup> (Figure 1). Patients entering the study after this amendment received induction and maintenance treatment under the amended protocol and were not enrolled into the OLE study (see Supplementary Material for a summary of key protocol amendments). OLE study methods and results are reported in the Supplementary Material.

Per Good Clinical Practice guidelines, independent Ethics Committees and Institutional Review Boards ensured the ethical, scientific, and medical appropriateness of the study and approved the study documents before drug shipment to study sites. The study was conducted in accord with the protocol; International Council for Harmonisation guidelines; and applicable regulations, guidelines, and ethical principles originating from the Declaration of Helsinki. Patients provided written informed consent before screening or undergoing studyspecific procedures. The SERENE CD

study was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT02065570). All authors had access to the study data and reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

**Figure 1.**



Study design. ADA, adalimumab. <sup>a</sup>CDAI <150. <sup>o</sup>SES-CD ≤4 with no ulcerated surface subscore >1 in any segment. Gratification factors for randomization: hs-CRP (levels <10 and ≥10 mg/L) at baseline, prior infliximab use, and CD activity (CDAI ≤300, >300) at baseline. <sup>d</sup>Mandatory corticosteroid taper was initiated at week 4. <sup>e</sup>Stratification factors for rerandomization at week 12: induction treatment regimen, clinical response (≥70% reduction from baseline in CDAI) at week 12 and decrease in SES-CD >50% from baseline at week 12. <sup>f</sup>SES-CD >50% decrease from baseline (or for a baseline SES-CD of 4, ≥2-point reduction from baseline). <sup>g</sup>Patients in the CA group may have had their ADA dose adjusted to ew during unscheduled visits at weeks 16, 18, 22, 24, 30, 32, 36, 38, 44, 46, 50, 52, or 54. <sup>h</sup>Patients in the TDM group may have had their ADA dose adjusted to ew at weeks 14, 28, or 42 based on protocol-specified dose-adjustment criteria.

## PATIENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible patients were adults (aged 18-75 years) with moderately to severely active CD (Crohn's Disease Activity Index [CDAI] score 220-450) despite full/adequate current or previous treatment with standard therapies (ie, oral corticosteroid and/or immunosuppressant therapies), and centrally read endoscopic evidence of mucosal inflammation defined as SES-CD >6 or >4 for isolated ileal disease, excluding the presence of the narrowing component. Patients diagnosed with ulcerative or indeterminate colitis were ineligible, as were patients with symptomatic bowel stricture, abdominal or perianal abscess, any ostomy or ileoanal pouch, or short bowel syndrome. The study allowed enrollment of patients with secondary loss of response or intolerance to infliximab (up to 25% of the total study population). Full inclusion and exclusion criteria are listed in the Supplementary Material.

## STUDY TREATMENT

In the induction study, eligible patients were randomized (3:2, stratified by baseline high-sensitivity C-reactive protein [hs-CRP levels <10 mg/L or >10 mg/L], prior infliximab use, and CD activity [CDAI score <300 or >300]) to receive adalimumab using a higher induction regimen (HIR) or the standard induction regimen (SIR). For HIR, patients received adalimumab 160 mg at baseline, and at week 1, week 2, and week 3. For SIR, patients received adalimumab 160 mg at baseline, placebo (adalimumab vehicle) at week 1, adalimumab 80 mg at week 2, and placebo at week 3. Starting at

week 4, patients in both groups received adalimumab 40 mg eow through week 12. Concomitant medication use remained stable, except for corticosteroids, for which patients were required to taper their dose starting at week 4 per the protocol-defined taper schedule (see Supplementary Material for details).

After addition of the exploratory 44-week double-blind maintenance study, all patients completing the induction study were re-randomized at week 12 (1:1) to adalimumab maintenance using CA or TDM strategies. Randomization was stratified on the basis of induction treatment regimen, clinical response (defined as reduction of CDAI score by 70 points) at week 12, and SES-CD (>50% decrease from baseline at week 12, further stratified by endoscopic remission at week 12). All patients received 40 mg eow beginning at week 12. For the CA strategy, the adalimumab dose was escalated to 40 mg ew if the patient's CDAI score was  $\geq 220$  or hs-CRP level (measured at weeks 12, 26, and 40, and unscheduled visits) was  $\geq 10$  mg/L (based on measured hematocrit and hs-CRP levels from the previous or current study visit); to reflect clinical practice, dose escalation could occur at week 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, or 54. The TDM strategy was intended to proactively achieve a minimum adalimumab concentration (5 mg/mL) in all patients on the basis of assessment of concentration in conjunction with clinical criteria at 3 time points during the maintenance study (Supplementary Figure 1). Although pharmacokinetic analyses from previous trials of adalimumab did not identify a serum concentration level that significantly and reliably predicted remission of CD (data on file), approximately 75% of the patients who were in clinical remission at week 56 in the CLASSIC II trial had serum adalimumab concentrations  $> 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  and the median adalimumab concentration among patients in clinical remission was nearly 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ .<sup>17</sup> The TDM doseadjustment criteria were designed to achieve adalimumab serum concentrations  $> 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  and not exceeding approximately 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , which is an exposure range associated with efficacy, but does not exceed the maximum observed range in the CLASSIC II trial. Based on blinded serum adalimumab concentrations from the previous study visit 2 weeks earlier, patients with adalimumab concentrations  $< 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  were escalated to 40 mg ew dosing, and patients with serum adalimumab concentrations  $> 10$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  remained at 40 mg eow dosing, regardless of clinical parameters. Patients with serum adalimumab concentrations  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  and  $\leq 10$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  were escalated to 40 mg ew dosing only if their CDAI score was  $\geq 220$  or their hs-CRP level was  $\geq 10$  mg/L. Because of the time required for serum adalimumab levels to reach steady-state after dose adjustments, dose escalation for patients in the TDM group could only occur at week 14, 28, or 42 (Supplementary Figure 1). For both the CA and TDM strategies, once the adalimumab dose was escalated, it remained at 40 mg ew for the remainder of the study. To maintain blinding, all patients received weekly syringes from week 12 through the end of the study, with patients remaining on adalimumab 40 mg eow receiving placebo on alternate weeks.

## ASSESSMENTS

**EFFICACY ASSESSMENTS-INDUCTION STUDY.** The coprimary end points were the proportions of patients who achieved clinical remission (CDAI score  $< 150$ ) at week 4 and endoscopic response

(>50% decrease from baseline in SES-CD [or a  $\geq 2$ -point reduction in patients with a baseline SES-CD of 4]) at week 12. All endoscopic assessments were confirmed by a central reader.

Ranked secondary end points included, in order:

1. sustained clinical remission (clinical remission at both weeks 4 and 12);
  2. clinical remission at week 4 and endoscopic response at week 12;
  3. clinical remission at week 12;
  4. steroid-free clinical remission (clinical remission among patients who were taking corticosteroids at baseline and discontinued their use) at week 12;
  5. endoscopic remission (SES-CD  $\leq 4$ ,  $\geq 2$ -point reduction in SES-CD from baseline, and no subscore  $>1$  in any individual variable) at week 12;
  6. change from baseline in fecal calprotectin level at week 4;
  7. hs-CRP levels  $<5$  mg/L and fecal calprotectin  $<250$  mg/g at week 4;
  8. clinical remission, hs-CRP levels  $<5$  mg/L, and fecal calprotectin  $<250$  mg/g at week 4;
  9. clinical remission, hs-CRP levels  $<5$  mg/L, endoscopic remission, and fecal calprotectin  $<250$  mg/g at week 12;
  10. SES-CD  $<2$  at week 12;
  11. clinical response ( $>70$ -point decrease in CDAI score from baseline) at week 4;
  12. clinical response at week 12;
  13. Inflammatory Bowel Disease Questionnaire (IBDQ)<sup>18</sup> bowel symptom domain response ( $>8$ -point increase in IBDQ bowel symptom domain score) at week 4;
  14. IBDQ bowel symptom domain response at week 12; and
  15. IBDQ fatigue item response ( $>1$ -point increase in IBDQ fatigue item score) at week 12.
- Selected other end points are listed in the Supplementary Material.

**EFFICACY ASSESSMENTS-MAINTENANCE STUDY.** All maintenance study end points were exploratory and were evaluated at week 56. These end points included:

1. clinical remission (among 3 populations: patients overall, patients who achieved clinical remission at week 12, and patients who underwent dose escalation);
2. steroid-free clinical remission (patients who discontinued corticosteroid use and achieved clinical remission among patients taking corticosteroids at baseline);
3. endoscopic response (among 3 populations: patients overall, patients who achieved endoscopic response at week 12, and patients who underwent dose escalation);
4. endoscopic remission (among 3 populations: patients overall, patients who achieved endoscopic remission at week 12, and patients who underwent dose escalation);

5. deep remission (both clinical remission and endoscopic remission);
6. change from baseline in fecal calprotectin concentration;
7. hs-CRP levels <5 mg/L and fecal calprotectin <250 mg/g;
8. clinical remission, hs-CRP levels <5 mg/L, and fecal calprotectin <250 mg/g;
9. clinical remission, hs-CRP levels <5 mg/L, endoscopic remission, and fecal calprotectin <250 mg/g;
10. SES-CD <2;
11. change from baseline in CDAI score;
12. clinical response;
13. enhanced clinical response;
14. IBDQ bowel symptom domain response;
15. IBDQ fatigue item response;
16. symptomatic remission;
17. symptomatic response;
18. IBDQ response; and
19. IBDQ remission.

**SAFETY ASSESSMENTS.** Adverse events (AEs), vital signs, and laboratory parameters were assessed throughout the induction and maintenance studies. Except for those patients who continued commercially available adalimumab after the end of the study, patients were contacted 70 days after the last dose of study drug to assess any new or ongoing AEs. AEs and AEs of special interest were organized using the Medical Dictionary for Drug Regulatory Activities, version 20.1 or later (<https://www.meddra.org/>), by system organ class, preferred term, relationship to study drug, and severity.

**PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES.** Changes from baseline in IBDQ total scores, 5-level European Quality of Life 5 Dimensions<sup>19</sup> index, and Work Productivity and Impairment Questionnaire<sup>20</sup> scores were assessed at weeks 4, 8, 12, 26, 40, and 56.

**PHARMACOKINETICS AND IMMUNOGENICITY.** Serum adalimumab concentrations and anti-adalimumab antibody positivity (AAA+) were determined using a validated ligand binding assay.<sup>21</sup> The anti-adalimumab antibody assay was able to detect immunogenicity only when adalimumab concentrations were <2 mg/mL (meaning the assay was not drug-tolerant). Adalimumab concentrations were determined at baseline and weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 26, 40, and 56. Anti-AAA+ was determined before baseline and at weeks 4, 12, 26, 40, and 56. AAA+ was defined as  $\geq 1$  AAA concentration  $\geq 20$  ng/mL within 30 days of an adalimumab dose.



## STATISTICAL ANALYSES

All analyses were performed using SAS software (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC). All statistical tests were 2-sided with a .05 significance level. Sample size calculations and randomization procedures are described in the Supplementary Materials.

Induction study efficacy end points were analyzed for the intent-to-treat (ITT) population, which included all patients who were randomized at baseline; missing data were imputed using the nonresponder imputation method. For binary variables, proportions of patients were compared between the HIR and SIR groups using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test, adjusting for the baseline stratification factors. For continuous variables, differences in change from baseline of the variable between treatment groups were analyzed using an analysis of covariance model, including factors for treatment, baseline hs-CRP, prior infliximab use, CDAI score at baseline, and the variable's baseline values. Patients who required initiation of corticosteroids or increased corticosteroid doses above their baseline dose were considered nonresponders and were censored from efficacy analyses.

Maintenance study end points were analyzed for the modified ITT population, which included all patients in the ITT population who achieved clinical response at week 12. The nonresponder imputation method was used to impute missing data for categorical end points, and the last observation carried forward method was used to impute continuous end points. Proportions of patients were compared between CA and TDM groups using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test, adjusted for induction treatment (HIR or SIR) and achievement of endoscopic response at week 12. Differences in change from baseline between treatment groups were analyzed using an analysis of covariance model including factors for treatment, induction regimen, achievement of endoscopic response at week 12, and respective induction baseline value.

All safety analyses included all patients who received >1 dose of study drug. Safety data were analyzed from baseline to week 12 (induction study) and from week 12 to the end of the study.

Adalimumab trough serum concentrations and AAA+ rates were summarized by treatment group at each time point using descriptive statistics. For the maintenance study, adalimumab concentrations were analyzed separately for patients receiving adalimumab 40 mg eow vs those whose dose was escalated to adalimumab 40 mg ew within each group (ie, CA eow, CA ew, TDM eow, and TDM ew).

## Results

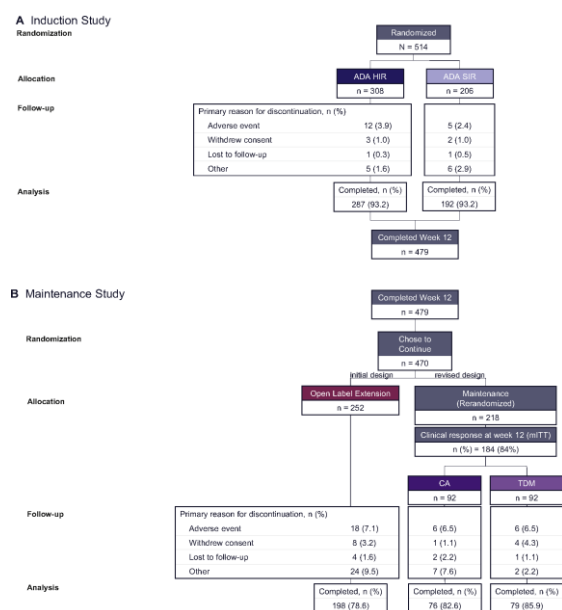
### PATIENTS

Of the 514 patients enrolled in the induction study, 308 and 206 patients were randomized to the HIR and SIR groups, respectively. The completion rate was high, with 479 patients (93.2% in both groups) completing the induction study (Figure 2A). Nine patients who completed the induction study chose not to continue from induction to maintenance. Of the remaining 470 patients, 252 entered the OLE

study, and 198 patients (78.6%) completed the OLE study. After the protocol amendment, all patients who completed the induction study ( $n = 218$ ) were rerandomized into the 44-week maintenance study (safety population). Patients who achieved clinical response at week 12 (84%) were included in the maintenance study efficacy analyses ( $n = 184$ ; 92 per arm); of these, 155 patients (CA group, 76 of 92 [82.6%]; TDM group, 79 of 92 [85.9%]) completed the maintenance study (Figure 2B). Key demographics and baseline characteristics of patients were balanced between groups in both the induction (HIR vs SIR groups) and maintenance studies (CA vs TDM groups). Baseline characteristics were consistent with moderately to severely active CD; the mean (standard deviation) disease duration was 7.3 (8.5) years (Table 1). Approximately 17% of patients had previous failure of and/or intolerance to infliximab. Concomitant use of corticosteroids and immunosuppressants at baseline was reported by nearly 50% and 27% of patients, respectively.

## INDUCTION STUDY

**Figure 2.** Patient disposition. (A) Induction study. (B) Maintenance study. Clinical response:  $\geq 70$ -point reduction from baseline in CDAI score. ADA, adalimumab; mITT, modified intent to treat.



Similar proportions of patients in the HIR and SIR groups achieved the co-primary efficacy end points of clinical remission at week 4 (43.5% and 43.7%;  $P = .939$ ) and endoscopic response at week 12 (42.9% and 39.3%;  $P = .462$ ; Figure 3). Interestingly, a larger treatment effect was seen for endoscopic response rates at week 12 in patients with ileal vs colonic disease ( $\Delta = 19.0$  vs 6.1; Supplementary Figure 2). The proportions of patients who achieved the ranked secondary end points were also similar between groups, except for clinical remission and clinical response at week 12, which were numerically higher for HIR vs SIR. Clinical remission was achieved by 62.3% of patients in the HIR group vs 51.5% of patients in SIR group at week 12 ( $P = .008$ ); 83.4% vs 74.8%, respectively, achieved clinical response at week 12 ( $P = .015$ ; Table 2). Although rates were similar between groups, approximately 50% of patients in both the HIR and SIR group achieved steroid-free remission at week 12.

For other end points, the mean change in CDAI score increased from baseline from week 2 through week 12 in both groups; at weeks 8 and 12, the mean change in CDAI score from baseline was numerically greater for those in the HIR group than in the SIR group ( $P = .006$  at week 12; Supplementary Figure 3). Similar patterns were observed for the proportion of patients who achieved clinical remission and clinical response over time. Numerically higher rates for the HIR group vs the SIR group were also observed for several nonranked induction study end points, including proportions of patients who achieved enhanced clinical response ( $P = .011$ ), IBDQ response ( $P = .044$ ), and symptomatic response (clinical response per reduction in stool frequency and abdominal pain criteria;  $P = .011$ ) at week 12 (Supplementary Table 1). Clinical remission and endoscopic response rates at week 12 in the stratified subgroups (baseline hs-CRP, CD disease severity, and prior infliximab use) are presented in Supplementary Table 2.

AEs, severe AEs, serious AEs, treatment-related AEs, and AEs leading to discontinuation of the study drug were reported for similar proportions of patients receiving HIR vs SIR (Table 3). The most frequently reported AEs in either group were headache, worsening of CD, nasopharyngitis, arthralgia, nausea, and dizziness. Most AEs were mild or moderate; severe AEs were reported for 17 patients (5.5%) in the HIR group and 13 patients (6.3%) in the SIR group. Of these, only worsening of CD occurred in more than 1 patient receiving either treatment regimen. There were no treatment-emergent deaths. One case of renal papillary cell carcinoma assessed by the investigator as having no reasonable possibility of relationship to the study drug. This case of renal papillary cell carcinoma was reported at week 8 in the HIR group. Infections were reported for similar proportions of patients receiving HIR (22.4%) and SIR (23.8%), with most being nonserious. Serious infections were reported for 2 patients in each group (detailed in Table 3). A total of 3 opportunistic infections were reported for 1 patient in the HIR group and 2 patients in the SIR group (detailed in Table 3). One case of intestinal tuberculosis was reported for a patient in the SIR group (detailed in Table 3). Injection-site reactions were reported for approximately 8% of patients in each group; all events were nonserious. Clinically significant (grade >3) laboratory parameter values were rare, and there were no notable mean changes in laboratory parameter or vital sign values.

**Table 1.** Demographics and Baseline Characteristics at Induction Study Entry

Characteristic	Adalimumab			
	Induction (ITT)		Maintenance (mITT)	
	HIR (n = 308)	SIR (n = 206)	CA (n = 92)	TDM (n = 92)
Sex, female, n (%)	158 (51.3)	109 (52.9)	45 (48.9)	43 (46.7)
Race, n (%)				
White	288 (93.8)	182 (88.3)	87 (94.6)	85 (92.4)
Black/African American	11 (3.6)	18 (8.7)	4 (4.3)	6 (6.5)
Asian	6 (2.0)	5 (2.4)	0	1 (1.1)
American Indian/Alaska Native	1 (0.3)	0	1 (1.1)	0
Multirace	1 (0.3)	1 (0.5)	0	0
Ethnicity, not Hispanic/Latino, n (%)	298 (96.8)	201 (97.6)	90 (97.8)	90 (97.8)
Age, y, median (range)	34 (18-73)	34 (18-71)	32 (18-73)	34 (18-73)
CD duration, y, mean (SD)	7.0 (7.9)	7.8 (9.3)	6.2 (7.5)	6.4 (8.2)
Weight, kg, mean (SD)	73.1 (18.3)	75.0 (20.8)	71.7 (19.6)	74.1 (18.6)
SES-CD, mean (SD)	13.6 (6.6)	13.6 (6.4)	13.3 (6.1)	12.3 (6.1)
IBDQ total score, mean (SD)	114.4 (31.7)	116.4 (31.2)	116.3 (33.0)	120.6 (27.5)
Daily AP, mean (SD)	5.7 (2.0)	5.6 (2.0)	5.7 (1.7)	5.4 (2.1)
SFPS, mean (SD)	134.1 (44.2)	131.8 (38.8)	132.5 (46.2)	138.9 (39.1)
Fecal calprotectin, µg/g, median (range)	1076 (10-9600)	1136 (22-9600)	918 (25-9600)	786 (10-9600)
hs-CRP <sup>a</sup> levels				
<10 mg/L, n (%)	175 (56.8)	113 (54.9)	50 (54.3)	52 (56.5)
≥10 mg/L, n (%)	133 (43.2)	93 (45.1)	42 (45.7)	40 (43.5)
Mean (SD)	20.7 (30.9)	20.2 (31.6)	21.6 (31.5)	18.8 (26.6)
Corticosteroid use, n (%)	155 (50.3)	100 (48.5)	39 (42.4)	56 (60.9)
Immunosuppressant use, n (%)	78 (25.3)	61 (29.6)	31 (33.7)	25 (27.2)
Previous infliximab use, <sup>a</sup> n (%)	53 (17.2)	36 (17.5)	15 (16.3)	10 (10.9)
CDAI <sup>a</sup>				
≤300, n (%)	179 (58.1)	119 (57.8)	58 (63.0)	46 (50.0)
>300, n (%)	129 (41.9)	87 (42.2)	34 (37.0)	46 (50.0)
Mean (SD)	295.8 (53.8)	298.0 (50.3)	296.1 (57.5)	303.4 (56.3)
Disease location per SES-CD, n (%)				
Ileal only	80 (26.0)	42 (20.4)	20 (21.7)	27 (29.3)
Colonic only	96 (31.2)	73 (35.4)	36 (39.1)	25 (27.2)
Ileocolonic	131 (42.5)	91 (44.2)	36 (39.1)	40 (43.5)

AP, abdominal pain; mITT, modified intent to treat; SD, standard deviation; SFPS, stool (liquid/soft) frequency + AP score (CDAI components).

<sup>a</sup>Stratification factors for randomization

## MAINTENANCE STUDY

The adalimumab maintenance dose was escalated to 40 mg ew for 28% of patients in the CA group (Supplementary Figure 4A) and 39% of patients in the TDM group (Supplementary Figure 4B). In the CA group, the most frequent reason for dose escalation was hs-CRP levels ≥10 mg/L (69% of patients had their dose escalated based on hs-CRP alone; an additional 4% also had a CDAI score ≥220). In

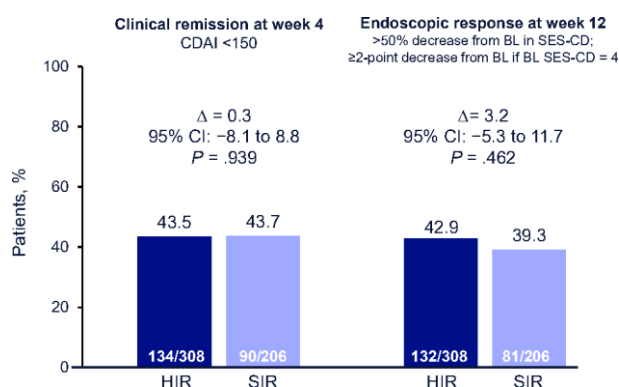
the TDM group, the most frequent reason was a serum adalimumab concentration  $<5$  mg/mL (58% of patients). Although patients could have their doses escalated due to adalimumab concentration  $<5$  mg/mL, irrespective of CDAI score or hs-CRP level, 33% of patients had low serum concentrations alone and 25% also had hs-CRP levels  $>10$  mg/L with or without a CDAI score  $>220$  in conjunction with low serum levels. Among patients who underwent dose escalation, similar proportions of patients receiving each maintenance strategy achieved clinical remission (CA: 53.8%, TDM: 55.6%;  $P = .789$ ), endoscopic response (CA: 34.6%, TDM: 25.0%;  $P = .501$ ), and endoscopic remission (CA: 23.1%, TDM: 19.4%;  $P = .966$ ; Supplementary Figure 4C) at week 56.

Similar proportions of patients in the CA and TDM groups achieved each week 56 efficacy end point (all exploratory) in the maintenance study (Figure 4A). At week 56, 70.7% of patients in the CA group and 66.3% of patients in the TDM group achieved clinical remission ( $P = .497$ ). More than 70% of patients taking corticosteroids at induction baseline achieved steroid-free clinical remission (76.9% and 73.2% in CA and TDM groups, respectively;  $P = .636$ ). Slightly more than 40% (44.6% and 43.5% in the CA and TDM groups, respectively) of patients achieved endoscopic response, and approximately 30% (31.5% and 29.3%) achieved endoscopic remission ( $P = .824$  and  $.621$ , respectively). Similar proportions of patients also met the more stringent end point of both clinical remission and endoscopic remission (ie, deep remission) in each group (29.3% in the CA group and 26.1% in the TDM group;  $P = .507$ ). The proportions of patients who achieved other efficacy end points, including symptomatic remission/response per stool frequency and abdominal pain criteria, were also similar between CA and TDM groups (Supplementary Table 3).

The proportions of patients who maintained clinical remission, endoscopic response, or endoscopic remission at week 56 among those who had achieved the same end point at week 12 of the induction study are shown in Figure 4B. More than 70% of patients with clinical remission at week 12 maintained clinical remission at week 56, with similar rates between the CA and TDM groups. Endoscopic response and endoscopic remission were maintained by more than 50% of patients in both groups; rates were slightly numerically higher among patients in the CA group vs the TDM group.

During the maintenance study, rates of AEs, severe AEs, serious AEs, treatment-related AEs, and AEs leading to discontinuation of the study drug were similar between groups (Table 3). AEs reported for  $>5\%$  of patients included worsening of CD, nasopharyngitis, headache, arthralgia, and diarrhea. No deaths or malignancies were reported. Except for infections, the overall rates of AE of special interest were low. Infections were reported for similar proportions of patients in the CA and TDM groups (33.9% and 34.9%, respectively), and most infections were nonserious. Serious infections were reported for 3 patients in the TDM group (detailed in Table 3); none were reported in the CA group. No opportunistic infections were reported during the maintenance study. There were no notable mean changes in laboratory values; shifts in laboratory values were infrequent and not considered clinically meaningful.

**Figure 3.**



Clinical remission at week 4 and endoscopic response at week 12 (co-primary efficacy end points- induction study; ITT population). Delta adjusted by stratification factors. Central reviewer scoring of endoscopy results was used for all efficacy assessments. Missing data were handled by nonresponder imputation. BL, baseline

## PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES

The mean changes from baseline in IBDQ total score, responses on the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire, and responses on the 5-level European Quality of Life 5 Dimensions indicated overall improvements in patient-reported outcomes (PROs) from baseline to week 4 of the induction study and through week 56 (Supplementary Figure 5). Changes in PROs were similar between the HIR and SIR groups during the induction study and between CA and TDM groups during the maintenance study.

## PHARMACOKINETICS AND IMMUNOGENICITY

Pharmacokinetic and immunogenicity data demonstrated that different induction dosing regimens of adali- mumab resulted in differences in exposure (Supplementary Figure 6). Throughout the 12-week induction study, the mean adalimumab concentration was higher in the HIR group compared with the SIR group. At the beginning of the maintenance study (week 12), mean adalimumab concentrations were similar between the CA and TDM groups overall; however, the concentrations trended lower among patients who subsequently had their doses escalated. This difference appeared to be larger in the TDM group compared with the CA group. At week 56, mean adalimumab concentrations in the CA group were slightly higher among patients who had their doses escalated to adalimumab 40 mg ew compared with patients who continued receiving adalimumab 40 mg eow (13.9 vs 9.7 mg/mL, respectively). However, in the TDM group, mean adalimumab concentrations were similar (approximately 10 µg/mL), regardless of whether patients were receiving adalimumab 40 mg eow or had their dose escalated to adalimumab 40 mg ew. AAA+ rates during the entire study were low; a total of 11 patients (5/308 [1.6%] originally randomized to HIR and 6/206 [2.9%] originally randomized to the SIR group) experienced AAA+ through week 56.

**Table 2.** Ranked Secondary Efficacy End Points (Induction Study, Intent-to-Treat Population)

End point <sup>a</sup>	Adalimumab		P value
	HIR (n = 308)	SIR (n = 206)	
1. Sustained clinical remission: clinical remission at both weeks 4 and 12	120 (39.0)	72 (35.0)	.269
2. Clinical remission at week 4 and endoscopic response at week 12	68 (22.1)	42 (20.4)	.610
3. Clinical remission at week 12	192 (62.3)	106 (51.5)	.008
4. Discontinued corticosteroid use and achieved clinical remission at week 12 among patients taking corticosteroids at baseline	82/155 (52.9)	48/100 (48.0)	.336
5. Endoscopic remission at week 12	88 (28.6)	54 (26.2)	.694
6. Change from baseline in fecal calprotectin concentration at week 4, mg/g, mean (SD)	-1157.0 (2000.7)	-1045.7 (1648.5)	.946
7. hs-CRP level <5 mg/L and fecal calprotectin <250 mg/g at week 4	100 (32.5)	57 (27.7)	.293
8. Clinical remission, hs-CRP level <5 mg/L, and fecal calprotectin <250 mg/g at week 4	44 (14.3)	23 (11.2)	.304
9. Clinical remission, hs-CRP level <5 mg/L, endoscopic remission, and fecal calprotectin <250 mg/g at week 12	36 (11.7)	15 (7.3)	.092
10. SES-CD <2 at week 12	62 (20.1)	33 (16.0)	.278
11. Clinical response at week 4	229 (74.4)	146 (70.9)	.353
12. Clinical response at week 12	257 (83.4)	154 (74.8)	.015
13. IBDQ bowel symptom response at week 4	230 (74.7)	147 (71.4)	.394
14. IBDQ bowel symptom response at week 12	237 (76.9)	151 (73.3)	.349
15. IBDQ fatigue response at week 12	234 (76.0)	141 (68.4)	.054

NOTE. Data are presented as n (%) or n/n (%), unless otherwise noted. Nonresponder imputation for categorical end points, observed cases for change in fecal calprotectin. Clinical remission: CDAI score <150. Clinical response: ≥70-point reduction from baseline in CDAI. Endoscopic remission: SES-CD ≤4 and ≥2-point reduction from baseline, and no subscore >1 in any individual variable. IBDQ bowel symptom response: >8-point increase in IBDQ bowel symptom domain from baseline. IBDQ fatigue response: ≥1-point increase in IBDQ fatigue item score.

<sup>a</sup>End points are in ranked order from top to bottom

## OPEN-LABEL EXTENSION STUDY

Key demographics and baseline characteristics at OLE study entry were consistent with moderately to severely active CD (Supplementary Table 4). Clinical remission, endoscopic response, and endoscopic remission were maintained by 68.2%, 45.4%, and 31.6% of patients, respectively, at

week 40 of the OLE study (week 52 from baseline) among patients who entered the OLE at week 0 achieving the same end point (Supplementary Table 5); patients who underwent dose escalation (n = 55) to 40 mg ew were censored for efficacy analyses. Safety results for the OLE study were similar to those reported for the maintenance study (Supplementary Table 6).

## Discussion

Adalimumab is approved<sup>5,6</sup> and well established for the treatment of CD.<sup>8,22</sup> Results from the SERENE CD study confirm safety and efficacy findings from previous trials of adalimumab in patients with moderately to severely active CD and show adalimumab to be well tolerated. Furthermore, these results demonstrate no significant effect of either higher induction dosing or dose adjustment based on proactive TDM during maintenance on the efficacy and safety of adalimumab.

In the induction study, although HIR dosing resulted in increased adalimumab serum concentrations, this did not translate into significantly greater clinical or endoscopic efficacy compared with the approved SIR. The lack of significant difference between induction regimens confirms the appropriateness of the approved 160-/80-mg induction dose for patients with moderately to severely active CD. Safety findings were similar for both induction regimens and were consistent with the known safety profile of adalimumab. Dose-dependent toxicity was not observed.



**Table 3.** Safety Results From Week 0 to 12 (Induction Study) and From Week 12 to 56 (Maintenance Study)

Variable	Adalimumab			
	Induction		Maintenance	
	HIR (n = 308)	SIR (n = 206)	CA (n = 109)	TDM (n = 109)
<b>Overview</b>				
TEAE	185 (60.1)	133 (64.6)	77 (70.6)	76 (69.7)
Serious AE	14 (4.5)	10 (4.9)	5 (4.6)	7 (6.4)
AE leading to discontinuation of study drug	13 (4.2)	8 (3.9)	8 (7.3)	9 (8.3)
Severe TEAE	17 (5.5)	13 (6.3)	7 (6.4)	6 (5.5)
TEAE possibly related to study drug <sup>a</sup>	75 (24.4)	54 (26.2)	29 (26.6)	33 (30.3)
Death	0	0	0	0
<b>TEAEs reported in &gt;5% of patients</b>				
CD	17 (5.5)	15 (7.3)	18 (16.5)	16 (14.7)
Nasopharyngitis	19 (6.2)	9 (4.4)	15 (13.8)	10 (9.2)
Headache	17 (5.5)	18 (8.7)	9 (8.3)	8 (7.3)
Arthralgia	11 (3.6)	16 (7.8)	8 (7.3)	4 (3.7)
Nausea	9 (2.9)	15 (7.3)	5 (4.6)	3 (2.8)
Diarrhea	2 (0.6)	3 (1.5)	6 (5.5)	4 (3.7)
Dizziness	2 (0.6)	11 (5.3)	0	0
<b>AESIs</b>				
Infection	69 (22.4)	49 (23.8)	37 (33.9)	38 (34.9)
Serious infection <sup>b</sup>	2 (0.6)	2 (1.0)	0	3 (2.8)
Opportunistic infection <sup>c</sup>	1 (0.3)	2 (1.0)	0	0
Oral candidiasis	1 (0.3)	2 (1.0)	1 (0.9)	0
TB (active or latent) <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0
Parasitic infection	0	0	1 (0.9)	1 (0.9)
Malignancy	1 (0.3) <sup>e</sup>	0	0	0
Allergic reaction <sup>f</sup>	8 (2.6)	10 (4.9)	1 (0.9)	3 (2.8)
Vasculitis	0	0	0	0
Myocardial infarction	0	0	0	0
Congestive heart failure	1 (0.3)	0	0	0
Cerebrovascular accident	1 (0.3)	0	0	0
Pulmonary embolism	0	0	0	0
Pancreatitis	0	0	0	0
Worsening/new onset of psoriasis	0	1 (0.5)	1 (0.9)	2 (1.8)
Demyelinating disorder	0	0	0	0
Hematologic disorder <sup>g</sup>	11 (3.6)	10 (4.9)	0	0
Liver failure and other liver event	0	0	0	0
Injection site reaction	26 (8.4)	17 (8.3)	6 (5.5)	2 (1.8)

Table 3. Continued

Variable	Adalimumab			
	Induction		Maintenance	
	HIR (n = 308)	SIR (n = 206)	CA (n = 109)	TDM (n = 109)
<b>Laboratory parameters (CTCAE criteria grade ≥3), n/n (%)</b>				
Hemoglobin	2/304 (0.7)	1/204 (0.5)	0/103	0/107
Platelets	0/307	0/206	0/104	0/107
Neutrophils	3/306 (1.0)	3/206 (1.5)	1/104 (1.0)	0/107
Lymphocytes	4/302 (1.3)	2/200 (1.0)	1/101 (1.0)	0/107
ALT	0/308	0/206	0/105	0/107
AST	1/308 (0.3)	0/206	0/105	1/107 (0.9)

NOTE. Data are presented as n (%), unless otherwise noted.

AESI, adverse event of special interest; ALT, alanine transaminase; AST, aspartate transaminase; CTCAE, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; HIR, higher induction regimen; TB, tuberculosis; TEAE, treatment-emergent

adverse event. <sup>a</sup>As assessed by the investigator. All relatedness described below was per investigator assessment.

<sup>b</sup>HIR: 1 patient with pyelonephritis and urinary tract infection (not related, resolved with antibiotic therapy, study drug not discontinued); 1 patient with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (not related, study drug discontinued). SIR: 1 patient with cellulitis of the leg (resolved with antibiotic therapy, study drug not discontinued); 1 patient with worsening of CD with abdominal abscess (not related, study drug discontinued). TDM: 1 patient with urinary tract infection (not related, study drug not discontinued, patient improved with antibiotic therapy); 1 patient with varicella after contact with a child with chicken pox (possibly related, study drug discontinued); 1 patient with mononucleosis and sepsis (possibly related, resolved with treatment, study drug not discontinued).

<sup>c</sup>Excluding oral candidiasis and TB. HIR: 1 patient with *P jirovecii* pneumonia (not related) with subsequent diagnosis of AIDS. SIR: 1 patient each with esophageal candidiasis and systemic *Candida* (not related).

<sup>d</sup>No cases of active or latent pulmonary TB; lower Medical Dictionary for Drug Regulatory Activities Query coding for AESI of active or latent TB does not include intestinal TB (captured under serious AEs). One patient (SIR) with intestinal TB found on histology of ileal resection (possibly related; study drug discontinued; patient received antimycobacterial treatment).

<sup>e</sup>One patient with papillary renal cell carcinoma (incidentaloma, resolved after partial nephrectomy; not related).

<sup>f</sup>No cases of angioedema/anaphylaxis occurred.

<sup>g</sup>No cases of pancytopenia occurred

In the maintenance study, adalimumab was efficacious for the long-term treatment of CD, with approximately two-thirds of patients who responded to induction therapy achieving clinical remission at week 56, demonstrating the durability of clinical efficacy. Also notable was the high proportion of patients (>70%) who achieved corticosteroid-free clinical remission after an early corticosteroid taper beginning at week 4, demonstrating the observed clinical efficacy rates were not driven by corticosteroids and a benefit of reduced reliance on concomitant corticosteroids use for patients. The clinical remission rates observed in the SERENE CD study are higher than those observed in prior pivotal adalimumab trials,<sup>8,9</sup> despite potentially more severe baseline endoscopic inflammation among patients in the present study, as documented by a central reviewer, which was not an entry criterion in the earlier studies. For endoscopic outcomes, approximately 40% of patients achieved endoscopic response and approximately 33% of patients achieved endoscopic remission during the maintenance study at week 56. Most (>50% in TDM and >70% in CA) patients who achieved endoscopic response or remission at week 12 maintained achievement of the same end point at week 56, providing further evidence that adalimumab is efficacious for the long-term treatment of CD.

For patients who experience a lack or loss of response to adalimumab, dose adjustment may allow achievement of response or remission. In the present study, 28% of patients in the CA group had their dose escalated, a rate that is similar to that reported for patients in the CHARM study (27%)<sup>12</sup> and the annual risk of dose escalation for initial responders reported in a systematic literature review (24.8% per patient-year).<sup>23</sup> The dose escalation rate for the TDM group was higher (39%), with most patients (58%) qualifying for dose escalation based on low serum adalimumab concentrations, regardless of hs-CRP or CDAI. In the SERENE CD study, more than one-half of the patients who had their doses escalated in either group achieved clinical remission at week 56. This surpasses the rate observed among patients who had their doses escalated due to lack of response or recurrent flares in the CHARM study (37%), although differences in study design between CHARM and SERENE CD (eg, different inclusion criteria, lack of placebo group, lower induction dose regimen, no endoscopy at baseline or follow up in CHARM) limit direct comparison between the 2 studies.<sup>12</sup> Although the maintenance study comparing the CA and TDM strategies was exploratory, key efficacy end points

were similar among patients who had an escalation in dose, regardless of strategy, suggesting that use of a proactive TDM strategy does not lead to additional clinical benefit over dose adjustment on the basis of evaluation of symptoms and/or hs-CRP alone.

Although the practice of measuring serum drug concentrations and using TDM to optimize treatment is an area of considerable interest among gastroenterologists who treat inflammatory bowel disease, supportive evidence from prospective, randomized controlled trials is limited. The American Gastroenterological Association currently recommends TDM only as a reactive strategy (ie, in patients with active disease) and notes that this recommendation is based on “very low quality evidence.”<sup>13</sup> Results from the exploratory SERENE CD study suggesting there is no clinical benefit of a proactive TDM strategy over a CA strategy for optimizing adalimumab maintenance dosing align with the results from previous studies evaluating TDM of anti-tumor necrosis factor therapies in adult patients with inflammatory bowel disease. In the TAXIT study, proactive TDM was not superior to CA dose optimization for achieving remission at 1 year in patients with CD or ulcerative colitis.<sup>24</sup> Similarly, in the TAILORIX study of patients with CD, proactive TDM failed to improve clinical and endoscopic remission rates over a CA approach.<sup>25</sup> In contrast, proactive TDM led to a higher clinical remission rate than did reactive TDM among pediatric patients with CD in the PAILOT trial, but this trial was nonblinded and lacked endoscopic assessments.<sup>26</sup>

As expected, induction adalimumab serum concentrations were higher among patients receiving HIR compared with SIR. The difference between groups peaked at week 4 and decreased thereafter; serum concentrations were largely similar by week 12. However, the higher serum adalimumab concentrations seen with higher induction dosing in the SERENE CD study were not associated with increased efficacy beyond the SIR dose for clinical remission at week 4 or endoscopic response at week 12. One reason the previous pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modeling did not conform with results of this study may be that the hypothesis was based on extrapolation of exposure-response relationships outside the previously studied dose and time-point ranges (ie, 160/80 mg was the highest previously studied induction dose; efficacy end points beyond week 4 had not been modeled previously). Furthermore, as endoscopic end points were not routinely assessed in historic CD trials, exposure-endoscopic response relationships were not available at the time of pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modeling. Previous studies have identified exposure-response relationships between adalimumab serum concentrations and clinical remission at week 4<sup>17</sup> or endoscopic response at weeks 26 and 52.<sup>11</sup> The complexity of the pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationship is reflected in the considerable interpatient variability and overlap between patients with and without remission or response. Additional factors, such as differences in study design, serum concentrations associated with different doses, and assessment of end points at different time points should be considered. The lack of a dose-response relationship for efficacy with the HIR vs the SIR may also reflect that the studied doses are close to the plateau of the exposure-response relationship for the overall population.

In the maintenance study, adalimumab concentrations were similar between groups at week 12 (ie, before dose escalation for any patient). Differences in adalimumab concentrations among patients who remained on eow dosing or were escalated to ew dosing within the CA and TDM groups reflect

the nature of each strategy. In the CA group, dose-escalation decisions per protocol were independent of adalimumab concentration, which may have resulted in dose escalation among patients with higher preescalation adalimumab concentrations and may be reflected in the mean serum concentration at week 56 for the subset of patients who underwent dose escalation in the CA group. In the TDM group, dose escalation was primarily driven by low serum adalimumab concentrations, reflecting a higher clearance. The lower week 12 adalimumab concentrations among patients whose dose was subsequently escalated reflects the algorithm used for dose escalation (ie, dose escalation in response to low adalimumab concentrations, regardless of hs-CRP level or CDAI). Dose escalation in these patients resulted in similar concentrations of adalimumab among patients in the TDM group at week 56, regardless of final dose level. Despite the differences in escalation criteria between the CA and TDM strategies, the overall differences in adalimumab concentrations between patients who continued with adalimumab 40 mg eow and those who were escalated to 40 mg ew, even in the CA group, were not large.

Although no significant differences in PROs were observed between groups, the marked improvements in PROs from baseline demonstrate important quality-of-life benefits associated with adalimumab therapy, regardless of dose regimen. Both induction dosing regimens and both maintenance strategies were well tolerated, confirming the known safety profile of adalimumab in treating CD. OLE study results were similar to the CA/TDM populations and generally supportive of the maintenance study outcomes.

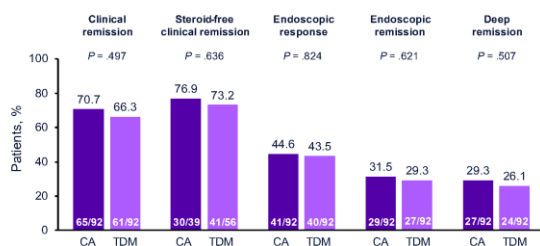
With respect to limitations, the SERENE CD trial did not include a placebo control arm for ethical reasons; hence, there was no control for placebo-adjusted effects. High remission rates observed at week 56 may be due to the open-label nature of the study. The exploratory nature of the maintenance study and the lack of a group receiving adalimumab ew limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the results. Dose escalation occurred earlier and more often overall in the TDM group vs the CA group, and the interpretation of serum drug concentrations is limited by differences in dose escalation timepoints and criteria (eg, the nature of the algorithm selecting dose escalation for patients with low serum levels in the TDM group, the potential for dose escalation based on symptoms alone in the CA group). Therapeutic cutoff values for dose escalation have not been defined, and the results may be limited by the selected cutoff values. For this trial, the cutoff values were based on clinical outcomes but not endoscopic outcomes, as were relied on in the pivotal trials. The choice of a different minimum serum concentration value (eg, using a threshold adalimumab concentration of 12 mg/mL, as suggested by the prospective, multicenter observational PANTS study<sup>27</sup>) or removing the maximum serum concentration value, above which dose escalation could not occur may have yielded different results. Further trials that are adequately powered to investigate TDM strategies are still needed.

In conclusion, results from the SERENE CD study confirm the appropriateness of the approved standard 160-/80-mg dose of adalimumab for patients with moderately to severely active CD. In the induction study, HIR did not demonstrate significantly greater clinical or endoscopic efficacy over the approved SIR. The safety profile of the higher adalimumab induction dosing regimen was comparable with the standard dosing regimen, with no new safety signals identified. Dose

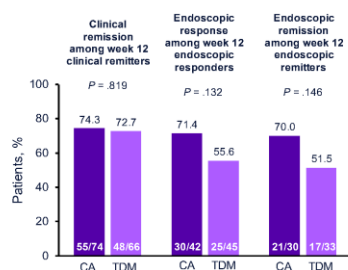
adjustment based primarily on serum adalimumab levels did not provide additional clinical benefit over clinical adjustment based on symptoms and biomarkers. The benefit-risk profile of adalimumab in moderately to severely active CD remains unchanged.

**Figure 4.** Selected week-56 efficacy end points (maintenance study; modified ITT [mITT] population).

**A** Achievement of Key Efficacy Endpoints at Week 56



**B** Sustained Efficacy at Week 56 Among Patients Who Achieved Key Efficacy Endpoints at Week 12



(A) Achievement of key efficacy end points at week 56. (B) Sustained efficacy at week 56 among patients who achieved key efficacy end points at week 12. Clinical remission was defined as CDAI score <150. Steroid-free clinical remission was defined as CDAI score <150 and discontinuation of corticosteroids among patients taking corticosteroids at baseline. Endoscopic response was defined as SES-CD >50% from induction baseline (or for an induction baseline SES-CD of 4, ≥2-point reduction from induction baseline). Endoscopic remission was defined as SES-CD ≤4 and ≥2-point reduction from induction baseline, and no subscore >1 in any individual variable. Deep remission was defined as clinical remission and endoscopic remission. Central reviewer scoring of endoscopy results was used.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Note: To access the supplementary material accompanying this article, visit the online version of *Gastroenterology* at [www.gastrojournal.org](http://www.gastrojournal.org), and at <http://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2022.01.044>.

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## **DATA AVAILABILITY**

AbbVie is committed to responsible data sharing regarding the clinical trials we sponsor. This includes access to anonymized individual- and trial-level data (analysis data sets), as well as other information (eg, protocols and clinical study reports), as long as the trials are not part of an ongoing or planned regulatory submission. This includes requests for clinical trial data for unlicensed products and indications. Clinical trial data can be requested by any qualified researchers who engage in rigorous, independent scientific research, and will be provided following review and

approval of a research proposal and statistical analysis plan and execution of a data sharing agreement. Data requests can be submitted at any time and the data will be accessible for 12 months, with possible extensions considered. For more information on the process, or to submit a request, visit the following link: <https://www.abbvie.com/our-science/clinical-trials/clinical-trials-data-and-information-sharing/data-and-information-sharing-with-qualified-researchers.html>

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors disclose the following: Geert R. D'Haens has served as advisor for AbbVie, Ablynx, Active Biotech AB, Agomab Therapeutics, Alimentiv, Allergan, Alphabionics, Amgen, AM Pharma, Applied Molecular Therapeutics, Arena Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celltrion, Cosmo, Dr Falk Pharma, DSM Pharma, Echo Pharmaceuticals, Engene, Exelium Biosciences, Ferring, Galapagos, Genentech/Roche, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Gossamerbio, Immunic, Johnson and Johnson, Kintai Therapeutics, Lilly, Lument, Medtronic, Mitsubishi Pharma, Merck Sharp and Dome, Mundipharma, Novo Nordisk, Otsuka, Pfizer, ProciseDx, Prodigest, Prometheus Laboratories/Nestle, Progenity, Protagonist, RedHill, Salix, Samsung Bioepis, Sandoz, Seres/ Nestec/Nestle, Setpoint, Takeda, Teva, Tigenix, Tillotts, Topivert, Versant, and Vifor. He has received speaker fees from AbbVie, Biogen, Ferring, Galapagos/Gilead, Johnson and Johnson, Merck Sharp and Dome, Mundipharma, Norgine, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Shire, Millenium/Takeda, Tillotts, and Vifor. William J. Sandborn has received research grants from AbbVie, Abivax, Arena, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech, Gilead Sciences, Glaxo Smith Kline, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Prometheus Biosciences, Seres Therapeutics, Shire, Takeda, and Theravance Biopharma; consulting fees from AbbVie, Abivax, Alfasigma, Alimentiv (previously Robarts Clinical Trials, owned by Alimentiv Health Trust), Allakos, Amgen, Arena, AstraZeneca, Atlantic Pharmaceuticals, Beigene, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Celltrion, Clostrabio, Forbion, Galapagos, GlaxoSmithKline, Gossamer Bio, Index Pharmaceuticals, Iota Biosciences, Janssen, Lilly, Morphic Therapeutics, Novartis, Oppilan Pharma (now Ventyx Biosciences), Pfizer, Pharm Olam, Polpharm, Progenity, Prometheus Biosciences, Protagonists Therapeutics, PTM Therapeutics, Seres Therapeutics, Shoreline Biosciences, Sublimity Therapeutics, Surrozen, Takeda, Theravance Biopharma, Vendata Biosciences, Ventyx Biosciences, Vimalan Biosciences, Vivreon Gastrosciences, Xencor, and Zealand Pharmaceuticals; stock or stock options from Allakos, BeiGene, Gossamer Bio, Oppilan Pharma (now Ventyx Biosciences), Prometheus Biosciences, Prometheus Laboratories, Protagonists Therapeutics, Shoreline Biosciences, Ventyx Biosciences, Vimalan Biosciences, Vivreon Gastrosciences; and employee at Shoreline Biosciences. Spouse: Iveric Bio - consultant, stock options; Progenity - stock; Oppilan Pharma (now Ventyx Biosciences) - stock; Prometheus Biosciences - employee, stock, stock options; Prometheus Laboratories - stock, stock options, consultant; Ventyx Biosciences - stock, stock options; Vimalan Biosciences - stock, stock options. Edward V Loftus, Jr, has been a consultant for AbbVie, Allergan, Amgen, Arena, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Calibr, Celgene, Celltrion, Genentech, Gilead, Iterative Scopes, Janssen, Lilly, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, Takeda, and UCB. He has received research grants from AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech, Gilead, Janssen, MedImmune, Pfizer, Receptos (Celgene), Robarts Clinical Trials,

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