Deucravacitinib in moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: liver transaminase results from the phase 3 POETYK PSO program

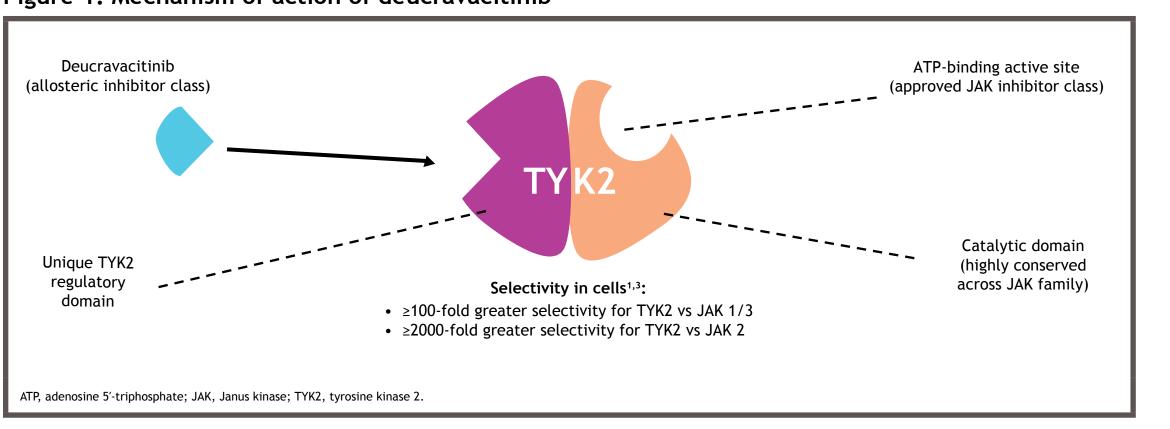
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Synopsis

- Tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) is essential to intracellular signaling of cytokines (interleukin-23 and Type I interferons) involved in
- Deucravacitinib, an oral, selective, allosteric TYK2 inhibitor, is approved in the US and other countries for the treatment of adults with moderate-to-severe plague psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy²

Figure 1. Mechanism of action of deucravacitinib



- In two phase 3 pivotal trials in patients with moderate to severe plague psoriasis, deucravacitinib demonstrated a robust safety and efficacy profile, including superiority to placebo and apremilast^{4,5}
- Deucravacitinib treatment did not result in clinically relevant mean changes over time across multiple laboratory parameters, including in measures of liver transaminases⁶
- Mean alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) levels remained unchanged and within normal limits over Weeks 0-16⁶
- Increases in liver transaminases have been observed with Janus kinase 1/2/3 inhibitors in patients with autoimmune diseases,
- However, increases ≥3× the upper limit of normal (ULN) in ALT and AST were observed over 16 weeks in individual patients² ALT elevations ≥3× ULN were reported in 9 patients (3.6/100 person-years [PY]) treated with deucravacitinib and in 2 patients (1.6/100 PY) receiving placebo who did not have ALT elevation at baseline
- AST elevations ≥3× ULN were reported in 13 patients (5.2/100 PY) treated with deucravacitinib and in 2 patients (1.6/100 PY) receiving placebo

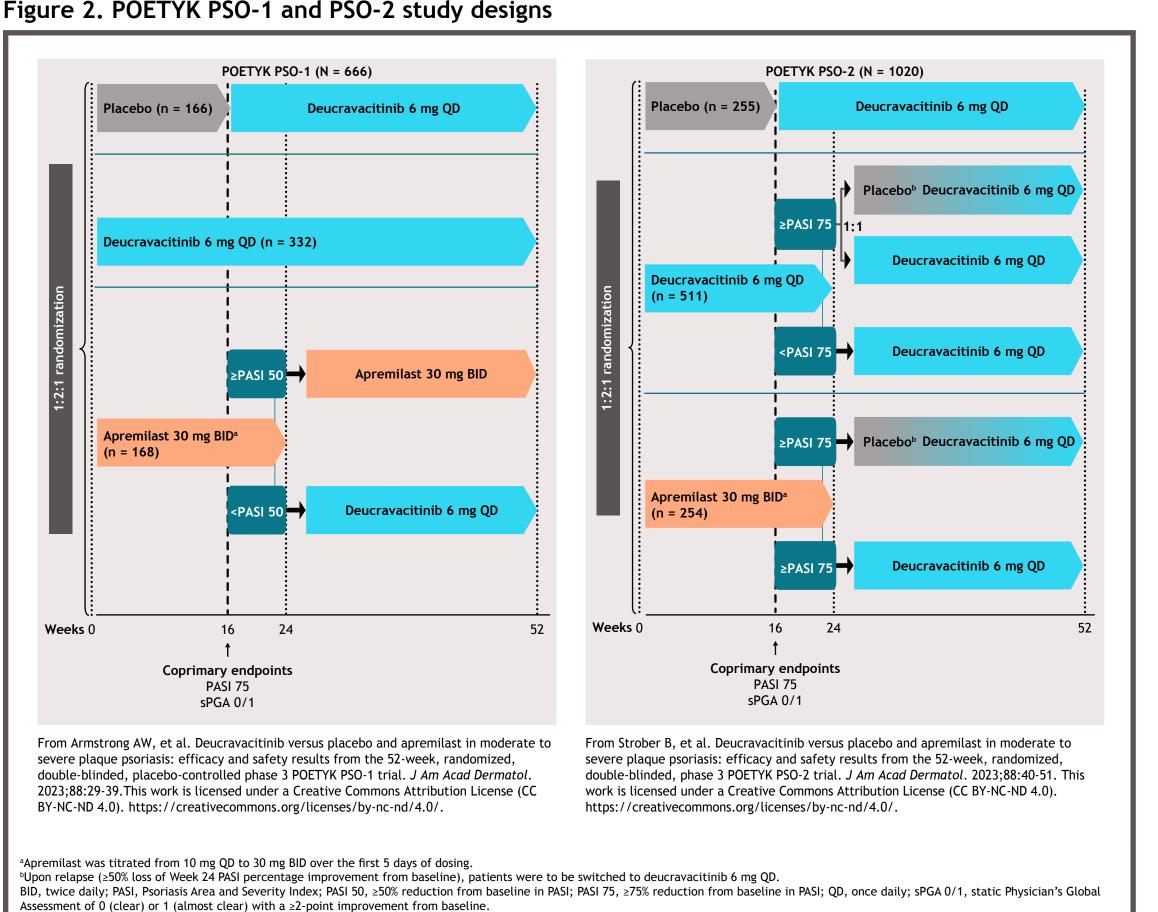
Objective

• To assess laboratory measures of liver function in the POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2 trials, including changes over 52 weeks in patients who experienced an elevation ≥3× ULN for ALT or AST in the first 16 weeks of treatment

Methods

- POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2 were 52-week, multinational, phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo- and active comparatorcontrolled trials (Figure 2)
- Patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (Psoriasis Area and Severity Index [PASI] ≥12, static Physician's Global Assessment [sPGA] ≥3, body surface area involvement ≥10%) were randomized 1:2:1 to oral placebo, deucravacitinib 6 mg once daily, or apremilast 30 mg twice daily during Weeks 0-16
- Patients receiving placebo crossed over to deucravacitinib at Week 16

Figure 2. POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2 study designs



Post hoc analysis of changes in liver function

- POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2 data were pooled by treatment group
- ALT and AST elevations are presented as:
- Events classified as adverse events (AEs) and AEs leading to treatment discontinuation
- Shifts from baseline to maximum grade (based on the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events [CTCAE] version 5) over
- Patient-level data for patients who experienced an elevation ≥3× ULN during Weeks 0-16

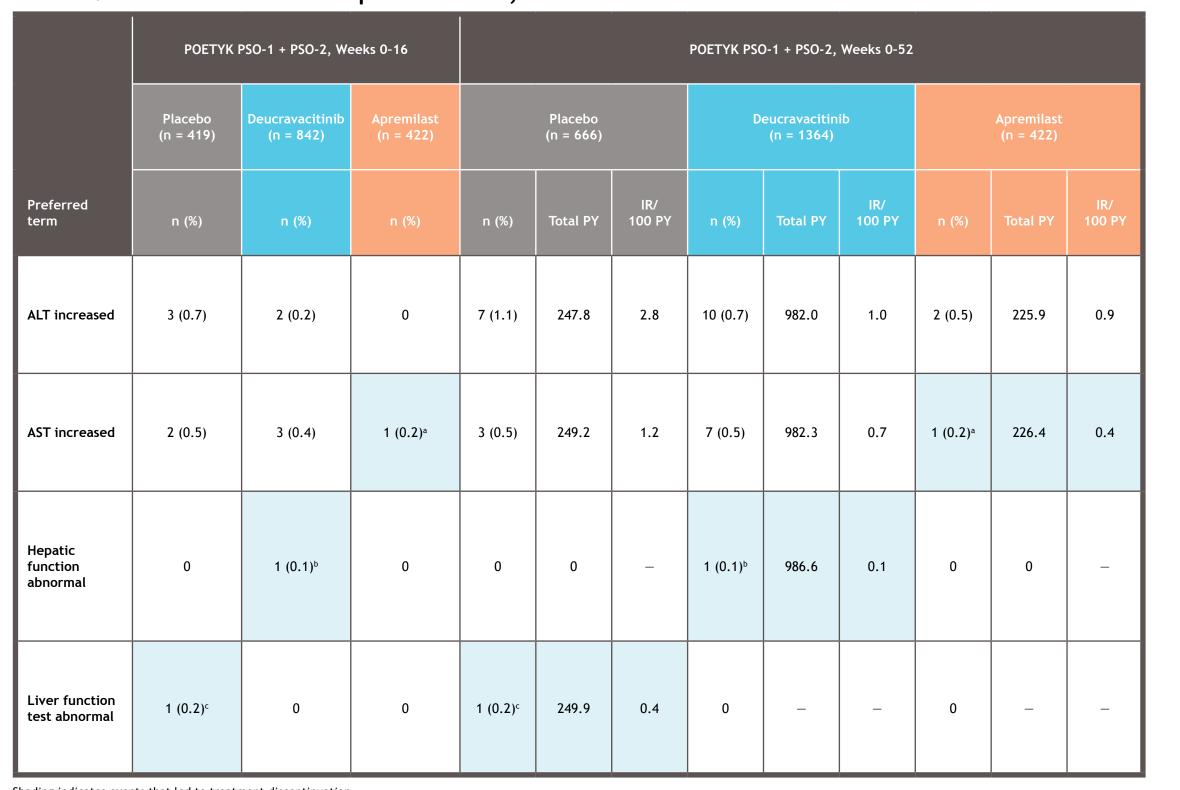
Results

• This analysis included 666 and 1020 patients randomized in POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2, respectively

AEs related to liver abnormalities

- The frequencies and exposure-adjusted incidence rates for "ALT elevation" and "AST elevation" reported as AEs were higher in placebo patients vs patients treated with deucravacitinib or apremilast (**Table 1**)
- There was also 1 event of "hepatic function abnormal" (including ALT and AST elevations ≥3× ULN) in a deucravacitinib-treated
- patient and 1 event of "liver function test abnormal" (including ALT elevation ≥3× ULN) in a placebo patient
- One patient in each treatment group discontinued in the first 16 weeks because of an ALT- or AST-related AE, including the events of "hepatic function abnormal" and "liver function test abnormal"
- There were no cases of drug-induced liver injury

Table 1. Liver abnormalities reported as AEs, Weeks 0-16 and Weeks 0-52



Patient with no reported medical history and baseline ALT 58 U/L (>1× ULN) and AST 33 U/L discontinued treatment on Day 18 due to increased CPK and increased AST. Values at the time of discontinuation were CPK 11.878 U/L (grade 4: reference range, 39-308 U/L), ALT 117 U/L (>2× ULN), and AST 226 U/L (>5× ULN), All values returned to within baseline range on Day 53 Patient with a relevant history of fatty liver and baseline ALT 110 U/L (>2× ULN), AST 80 U/L (>2× ULN), and bilirubin 0.9 mg/dL discontinued treatment on Day 59 due to "hepatic function abnormal." Bilirubin levels ranged from 0.9-2.0 mg/dL (reference range, 0-1.2 mg/dL) prior to the reported AE. Values on Day 58 were: ALT 119 U/L (>2× ULN), AST 119 U/L (>3× ULN), and bilirubin 4.2 mg/dL (>3× ULN). The event Patient with a relevant history of fatty liver, increased liver function test, and screening ALT 73 U/L (>1× ULN) and AST 44 U/L (>1× ULN) discontinued treatment on Day 2 due to "liver function test abnormal." Values on Day 1 were: ALT 387 U/L (>5× ULN) and AST 177 U/L (>3× ULN). Values returned to within screening range on Day 36. AE, adverse event; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; CPK, creatine phosphokinase; IR, incidence rate; PY, person-years; ULN, upper limit of normal.

Shifts in CTCAE grade

• Definitions of CTCAE grades for increased ALT and increased AST are defined in Table 2

- Across treatment arms, maximum increases from baseline in ALT and AST rarely exceeded 1 CTCAE grade during Weeks 0-16
- Shifts of 1 grade from baseline:
- ALT: placebo, 11.4%; deucravacitinib, 11.3%; apremilast, 14.6%
- AST: placebo, 9.4%; deucravacitinib, 8.6%; apremilast, 6.7%
- Shifts of ≥2 grades from baseline: • ALT: placebo, 0%; deucravacitinib, 0.4%; apremilast, 0.5%

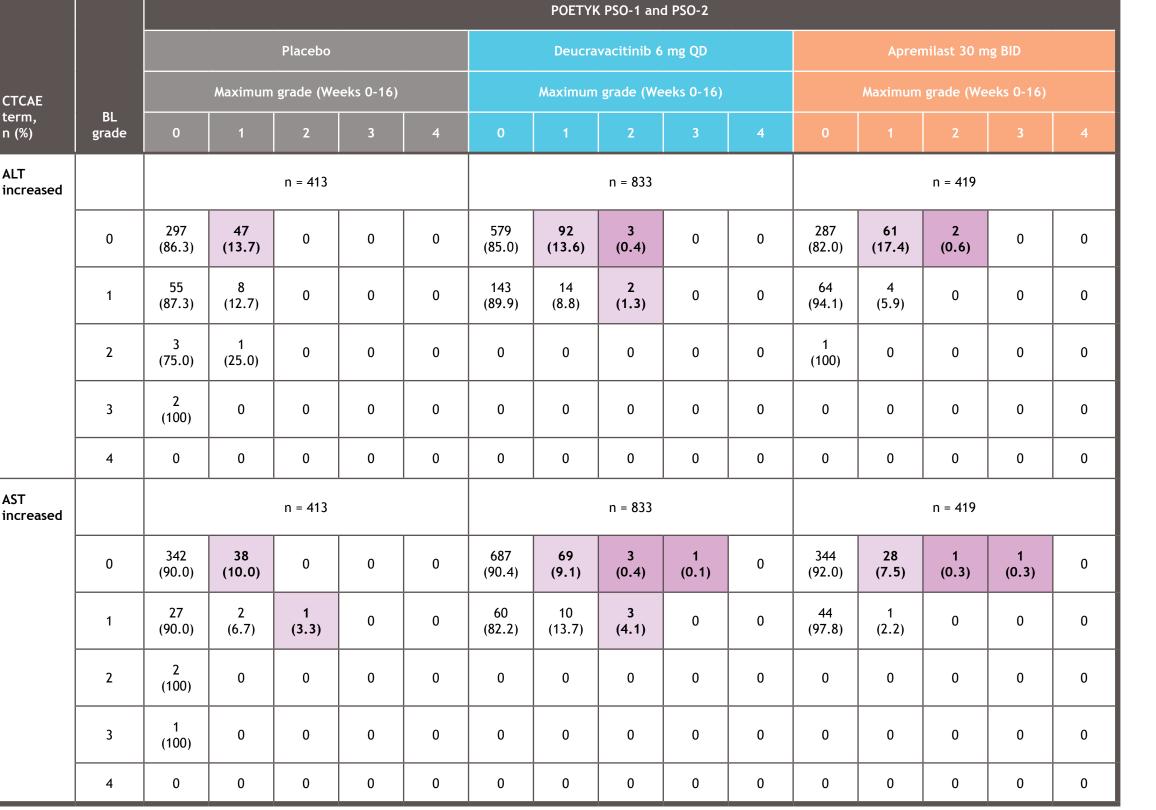
• AST: placebo, 0%; deucravacitinib, 0.5%; apremilast, 0.5%

Table 2. Definitions of CTCAE grades for ALT and AST elevations

ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; CTCAE, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; ULN, upper limit of normal.

Laboratory parameter	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
ALT	 ULN-3× ULN if baseline normal 1.5×-3× baseline if baseline abnormal 	 >3×-5× ULN if baseline normal >3×-5× baseline if baseline abnormal 	 >5×-20× ULN if baseline normal >5×-20× baseline if baseline abnormal 	 >20× ULN if baseline normal >20× baseline if baseline abnormal
AST	 ULN-3× ULN if baseline normal 1.5×-3× baseline if baseline abnormal 	 >3×-5× ULN if baseline normal >3×-5× baseline if baseline abnormal 	 >5×-20× ULN if baseline normal >5×-20× baseline if baseline abnormal 	 >20× ULN if baseline normal >20× baseline if baseline abnormal

Table 3. Shifts in transaminase elevations from baseline during Weeks 0-16 by CTCAE grade



Light pink shading indicates shifts of 1 grade from baseline; dark pink shading indicates shifts of ≥2 grades from baseline.

Maximum elevations over time

• Postbaseline incidences of ALT >3× ULN during Weeks 0-16 were low (<2%) and comparable in all 3 treatment arms (Table 4) Similar findings were observed for the Weeks 0-52 period (Table 5)

ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; BID, twice daily; BL, baseline; CTCAE, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; QD, once daily.

Postbaseline incidences of AST >3× ULN and AST >5× ULN during Weeks 0-16 were low across treatment groups (<2% and <0.5%, respectively) but greater with deucravacitinib vs placebo or apremilast (Table 4) Similar findings were observed for the Weeks 0-52 period (Table 5)

Table 4. Maximum elevations in ALT and AST, Weeks 0-16

	(n = 413)		(n =	833)	(n = 419)		
	Baseline	Weeks 0-16	Baseline	Weeks 0-16	Baseline	Weeks 0-16	
Abnormality	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	
ALT							
>3×->20× ULN	6 (1.5)	5 (1.2)	0	9 (1.1)	1 (0.2)	2 (0.5)	
>5×->20× ULN	2 (0.5)	3 (0.7)	0	0	0	0	
>10×->20× ULN	0	0	0	0	0	0	
>20× ULN	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AST							
>3×->20× ULN	3 (0.7)	2 (0.5)	0	13 (1.6)	0	3 (0.7)	
>5×->20× ULN	1 (0.2)	1 (0.2)	0	3 (0.4)	0	1 (0.2)	
>10×->20× ULN	0	0	0	0	0	0	
>20× ULN	0	0	0	0	0	0	

ents are counted once in each relevant category. Includes data from POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2. For ALT, the ULN was defined as 33 U/L for women and 41 U/L for men. For AST, the ULN was defined as ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ULN, upper limit of normal.

Table 5. Maximum elevations in ALT and AST, Weeks 0-52

(Figure 4; Table 6)

	Placebo (n = 658)			Deucravacitinib (n = 1351)			Apremilast (n = 419)		
Abnormality	n (%)	PY	IR/100 PY	n (%)	PY	IR/100 PY	n (%)	PY	IR/100 PY
ALT									
>3×->20× ULN	11 (1.7)	247.0	4.5	21 (1.6)	977.0	2.1	4 (1.0)	225.8	1.8
>5×->20× ULN	2 (0.3) ^a	249.9	0.8	6 (0.4)	983.8	0.6	0	_	_
>10×->20× ULN	0	_	_	1 (0.1)	984.7	0.1	0	_	_
>20× ULN	0	_	_	0	_	_	0	_	_
AST									
>3×->20× ULN	5 (0.8)	249.1	2.0	25 (1.9)	973.3	2.6	3 (0.7)	226.4	1.3
>5×->20× ULN	1 (0.2)	250.2	0.4	7 (0.5)	981.9	0.7	1 (0.2)	226.8	0.4
>10×->20× ULN	0	_	_	2 (0.1)	984.4	0.2	0	_	_
>20× ULN	0	_	_	0	_	_	0	_	_

^aOne patient who had an ALT elevation during Weeks 0-16 had a higher elevation after switching to deucravacitinib treatment and is counted with the deucravacitinib patients for the Weeks 0-52 Patients are counted once in each relevant category. Includes data from POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2. For ALT, the ULN was defined as 33 U/L for women and 41 U/L for men. For AST, the ULN was defined as ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; IR, incidence rate; PY, person-years; ULN, upper limit of normal.

Patient-level data in patients who experienced an elevation ≥3× ULN during Weeks 0-16

(Figure 3; Table 6) Most AST elevations ≥3× ULN were transient and were often related to underlying liver conditions or concomitant medications

Most ALT elevations ≥3× ULN were transient and were often related to underlying liver conditions or concomitant medications

Figure 3. ALT levels over Weeks 0-16 in patients with ALT ≥3× ULNa during Weeks 0-16

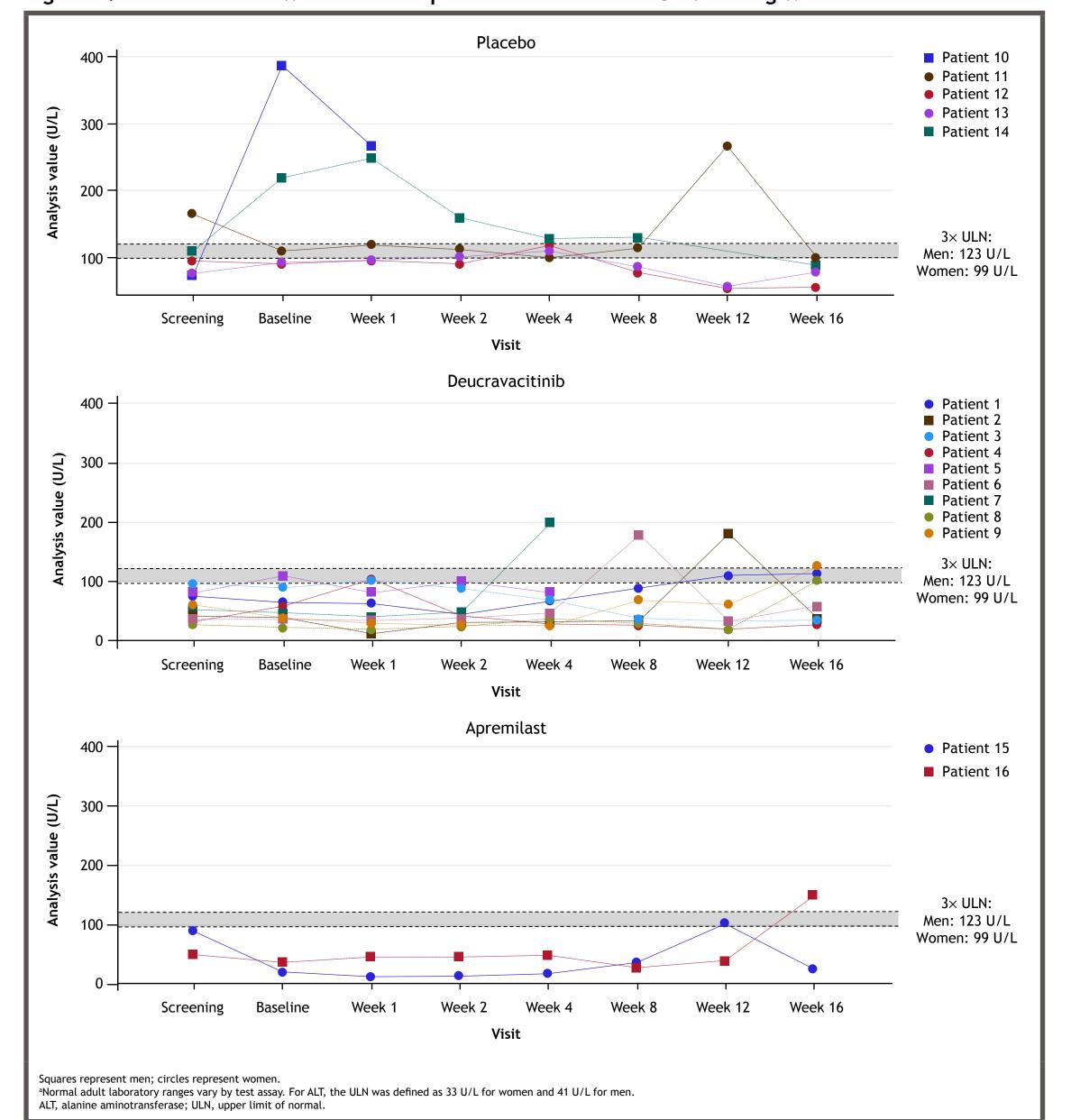
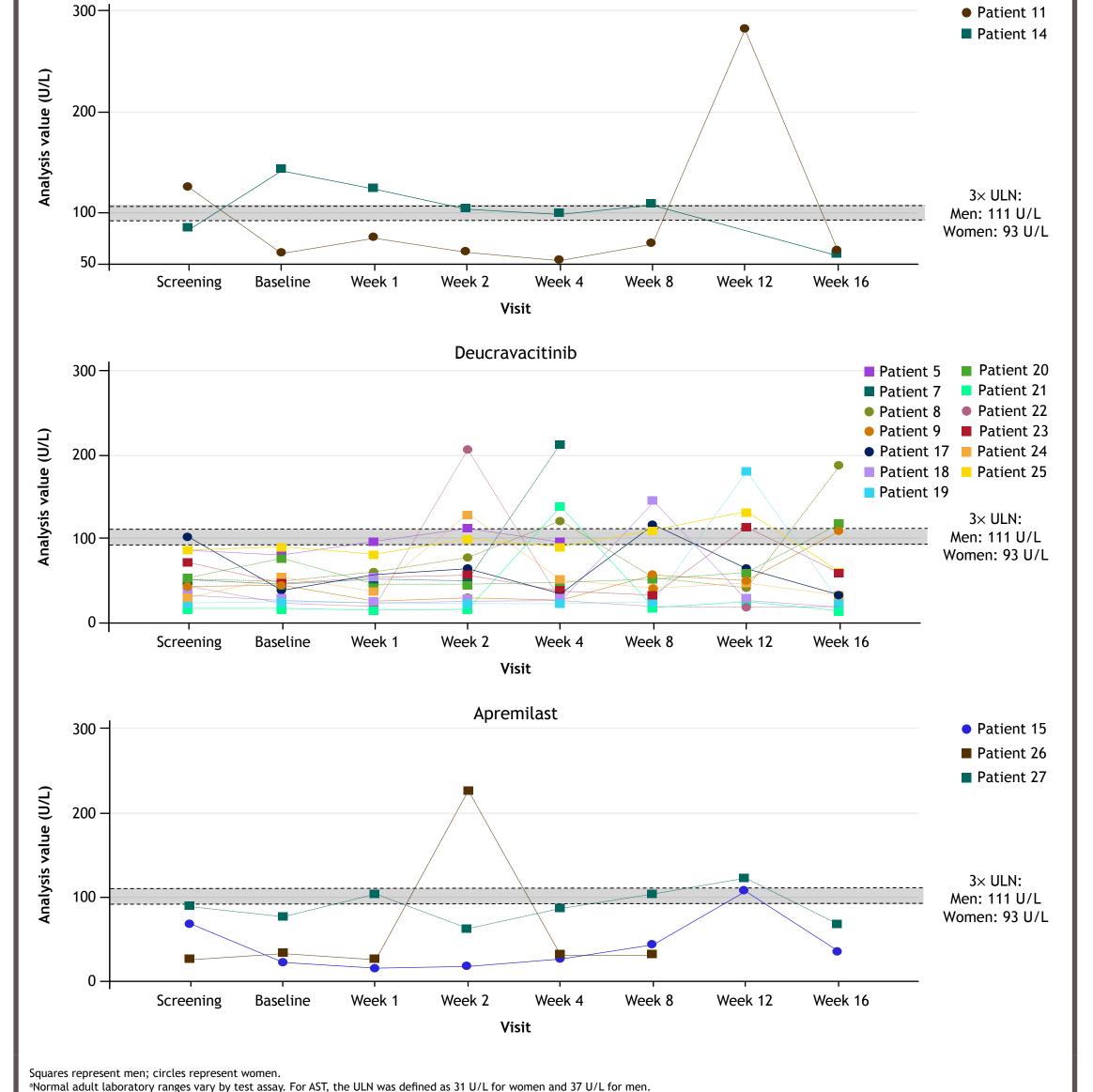


Figure 4. AST levels over Weeks 0-16 in patients with AST ≥3× ULNa during Weeks 0-16



AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ULN, upper limit of normal.

with ALT or AST playations >3x III N through Week 16

Patient ID	Treatment	Timing of ≥3× ULN ALT increase, weeks	Timing of ≥3× ULN AST increase, weeks	Relevant medical history and prior and concomitant medications through Week 16		
• Patient 1	Deucravacitinib	12-16	_	 History of liver disease, including fatty liver disease, jaundice, possible hepatitis A, previou elevated ALT, and obesity (BMI 32.3 kg/m²) Prior use of infliximab, etanercept, and methotrexate 		
■ Patient 2	Deucravacitinib	12	_	Patient BMI 32.7 kg/m², no other relevant medical history or medications available		
• Patient 3	Deucravacitinib	Screening, 1	_	 History of coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, hypertriglyceridemia, Type 2 diabet hypertension, BMI 33.4 kg/m², and previous left nephrectomy Previous treatment with etanercept, clobetasol, and betamethasone dipropionate; previous continuing treatment with metformin, aspirin, losartan, lorazepam 		
• Patient 4	Deucravacitinib	1	_	History of hepatic steatosis and obesity (BMI 38.6 kg/m²) No relevant medications taken before or during the event at Week 1		
■ Patient 5	Deucravacitinib	Baseline	2	 History of fatty liver disease and alcohol use, BMI 30.8 kg/m² Prior treatment with olopatadine and betamethasone butyrate propionate; prior and contin treatment with triazolam, zolpidem tartrate 		
Patient 6	Deucravacitinib	8	_	History of adipositas, BMI 37.0 kg/m² Previous treatment with Fumaderm		
■ Patient 7	Deucravacitinib	4	4	BMI 29.5 kg/m² Previous and continuing treatment with sildenafil, beclomethasone dipropionate inhaler		
• Patient 8	Deucravacitinib	16	16	 History of Kawasaki's disease and hypertension, BMI 17.0 kg/m² Alcohol use was not reported in the parent study, but during the long-term extension study investigator reported an AE of alcohol dependence syndrome An abdominal CT done for AE of acute abdomen on Day 74 revealed hepatic steatosis History of clobetasol propionate, betamethasone butyrate propionate, prednisolone valerat acetate, metroclopramine hydrochloride, Solyugen, acetaminophen, iohexol, esomeprazole magnesium hydrate 		
• Patient 9	Deucravacitinib	16	16	 BMI 37.4 kg/m² Previous treatment with acetic acid, dexamethasone, neomycin sulfate, Otomize ear spray; previous and continuing treatment with Depo-Provera 		
■ Patient 10	Placebo	Baseline, 1	_	 History of fatty liver disease, latent tuberculosis, tinea versicolor, liver function eleval prediabetes mellitus, gout, and hyperlipidemia, BMI 26.0 kg/m² Previous treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine, neotigason; previous and continu treatment with Legalon, tiropramide hydrochloride, febuxostat, cilostazol, crovatin, trimebutine maleate, buspirone hydrochloride, pyridoxine, isoniazid 		
• Patient 11	Placebo	Screening, 12	12	History of transaminitis, BMI 37.6 kg/m² Previous and ongoing use of intrauterine contraception device		
• Patient 12	Placebo	Screening, 1, 4	_	 History of elevated ALT and AST, hypertension, BMI 35.8 kg/m² Previous treatment with secukinumab; previous and ongoing treatment with nedal, karnidin Jaydess, Hepa-Merz 3000, and furaginum 		
• Patient 13	Placebo	Baseline, 1, 2, 4	_	 History of hepatic steatosis, latent tuberculosis, intermittent elevated liver function tests, HAIR-syndrome, and obesity (BMI 37.0 kg/m²) Previous treatment with rifampin; previous and continuing treatment with ibuprofen 		
■ Patient 14	Placebo	Screening, baseline, 1, 2, 4, 8	Baseline, 1, 2, 4, 8	 History of elevated ALT and AST, and benign prostatic hyperplasia, BMI 26.6 kg/m² Previous treatment with ixekizumab, guselkumab, amitriptyline, ciprofloxacin; treatment w sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim (Days 11-16 and Days 29-39) 		
• Patient 15	Apremilast	Screening, 12	12	BMI 33.0 kg/m², no other relevant medical history or medications available		
■ Patient 16	Apremilast	16	_	BMI 28.1 kg/m² Prior treatment with levocetirizine dihydrochloride		
• Patient 17	Deucravacitinib	_	Screening, 8	 History of Helicobacter pylori-positive serum antibody, Type 2 diabetes, and hypertension, BMI 32.6 kg/m² Previous treatment with tepilamide fumarate or placebo (as part of a clinical trial), omeprazole, clarithromycin, amoxicillin; previous and continuing treatment with Ancef, lisinopril, amitriptyline, metformin 		
Patient 18	Deucravacitinib	_	8	BMI 33.0 kg/m² Previous treatment with adalimumab and ustekinumab		
Patient 19	Deucravacitinib	_	12	BMI 50.7 kg/m², no other relevant medical history or medications available		
■ Patient 20	Deucravacitinib	_	16	BMI 43.4 kg/m², no other relevant medical history or medications available		
Patient 21	Deucravacitinib	-	4	BMI 27.2 kg/m² Previous treatment with methotrexate		
• Patient 22	Deucravacitinib	-	2	BMI 26.4 kg/m² Previous and continuing treatment with ethinyl estradiol/etonogestrel		
■ Patient 23	Deucravacitinib	_	12	 History of penicillin allergy, hypercholesterolemia, occasional heavy alcohol consumpthypertension, BMI 25.7 kg/m² Previous treatment with guselkumab, doxycycline (taken from Day 72 to Day 81); previousing treatment with aspirin, amlodipine/benazepril, rosuvastatin 		
Patient 24	Deucravacitinib	_	2	 History of coronary artery disease, smoking, stent insertion (3 stents total), and arteria hypertension, BMI 27.6 kg/m² Previous and continuing treatment with Coversyl, bisoprolol, Lipitor, and acetylsalicylic acid 		
Patient 25	Deucravacitinib	_	8, 12	 BMI 28.9 kg/m² Previous and ongoing treatment with lisinopril, patient-reported excessive alcohol intake in the long-term extension study 		
■ Patient 26	Apremilast	_	2	BMI 31.2 kg/m² Previous treatment with brodalumab		
■ Patient 27	Apremilast	_	1, 8, 12	 History of hepatic steatosis, high liver function tests, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, BMI 35.3 and renal cyst (left) Previous treatment with neotigason; previous and continuing treatment with perindopril and indapamide 		

Conclusions

- In the POETYK PSO-1 and PSO-2 trials in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, shifts >1 CTCAE grade from baseline in ALT and AST were infrequent over Weeks 0-16 with deucravacitinib treatment - There were no shifts to grade 4 and only 2 shifts to grade 3 (1 each with deucravacitinib and apremilast treatment)
- In patients treated with deucravacitinib, increases in ALT and AST >3× ULN were observed in <2% of patients over 52 weeks
- ALT and AST increases to >3× ULN were mainly transient, and most were related to underlying liver conditions or
- There were no cases of drug-induced liver injury

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