

Phase 3 Trial Investigating Impact of Intravenous Efgartigimod in Anti-Acetylcholine Receptor Antibody–Negative Generalized Myasthenia Gravis

James F. Howard Jr,¹ Jeffrey Guptill,² Rosa H. Jimenez,² Fien Gistelincx,² Sophie Steeland²

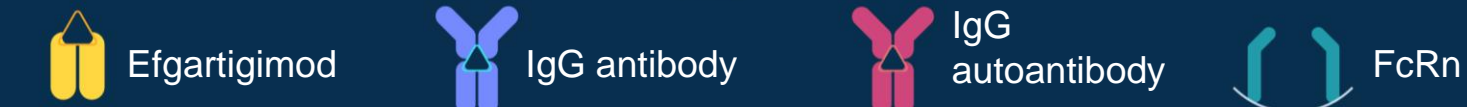
¹Department of Neurology, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, US; ²argenx, Ghent, Belgium

INTRODUCTION

- Efgartigimod is an IgG1 antibody Fc fragment that has been engineered for increased affinity to FcRn, and is uniquely composed of the only part of the IgG antibody that normally binds FcRn¹
- Efgartigimod selectively reduces IgG by blocking FcRn-mediated IgG recycling without impacting antibody production or other parts of the immune system, and does not decrease albumin¹⁻³

Efgartigimod Mechanism of Action: Blocking FcRn

- Efgartigimod and IgG are internalized^{1,4}
- Efgartigimod competes with endogenous IgG for binding to FcRn¹
- Unbound IgG enters the lysosomal degradation pathway¹⁻⁴
- Efgartigimod and fewer IgGs are recycled back into the bloodstream¹



DESIGN

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Has no known weakness in infancy and develops fatigable weakness \geq age 16
- Confirmed diagnosis of acquired gMG that meets one of the criteria in both of the following:

Abnormal SFEMG/RNS

OR

MuSK-Ab seropositive

AND

History of positive edrophonium chloride test

OR

Demonstrated improvement in MG signs with treatments such as oral AChE inhibitors, PLEX, immunoabsorption, or IVIg/SCIg treatment

- AChR-Ab seronegative at screening (MuSK-Ab+/LRP4-Ab+ allowed)
- MGFA Class II, III, or IV
- MG-ADL total score ≥ 5 ($>50\%$ nonocular)
- Stable dose of gMG therapy prior to screening^{a-c}

^aNSISITs initiated ≥ 6 months before screening with no change in dose during the 3 months before screening. ^bSteroids initiated ≥ 3 months before screening, with no change in dose during the month before screening. ^cAChEI with no change in dose during the 2 weeks before screening.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Total IgG < 4 g/L at screening
- Use of IVIg, SCIg, or intramuscular Ig within 4 weeks, any other investigational product within 3 months or 5 half-lives, monoclonal antibody within 6 months (eculizumab within 3 months), PLEX within 4 weeks, anti-CD20 or anti-CD19 antibody within 6 months, prior treatment with any CAR T-cell therapy or IL-6(R) inhibitor, prior treatment with an FcRn inhibitor
- Received a live or live-attenuated vaccine < 4 weeks before screening
- History of malignancy
 - Adequately treated basal cell or squamous cell skin cancer, carcinoma in situ of the cervix or breast, or incidental histological findings of stage T1a or T1b prostate cancer are allowed
- Received a thymectomy < 3 months before screening or thymectomy planned during study
- Active infection
- Documented lack of clinical response to PLEX
- Severe renal impairment with eGFR < 30 mL/min/1.73 m² at screening

ABBREVIATIONS

AChE, acetylcholinesterase; AChEI, acetylcholinesterase inhibitor; AChR, acetylcholine receptor; AChR-Ab, acetylcholine receptor antibody; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CD, cluster of differentiation; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; EQ-5D-5L VAS, EuroQol 5-Dimension 5-Level Visual Analog Scale; Fc, fragment crystallizable region; FcRn, neonatal Fc receptor; gMG, generalized myasthenia gravis; Ig, immunoglobulin; IgG, immunoglobulin G; IL6(R), interleukin 6 receptor; IMP, investigational medicinal product; IV, intravenous; IVIg, intravenous Ig; LRP4, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 4; LRP4-Ab, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 4 antibody; MG, myasthenia gravis; MG-ADL, Myasthenia Gravis Activities of Daily Living; MGFA, Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America; MG-QoL15r, Myasthenia Gravis Quality of Life 15-Item Questionnaire, Revised; MSE, minimal symptom expression; MuSK, muscle-specific tyrosine kinase; MuSK-Ab, muscle-specific tyrosine kinase antibody; NSISIT, nonsteroidal immunosuppressive therapy; OLE, open-label extension; PLEX, plasma exchange; QMG, Quantitative Myasthenia Gravis; RNS, repetitive nerve stimulation; SCIg, subcutaneous Ig; SFEMG, single-fiber electromyography.

RATIONALE

- gMG is a rare, chronic, neuromuscular autoimmune disease caused by pathogenic IgGs targeting the neuromuscular junction, resulting in impaired neuromuscular transmission and debilitating and potentially life-threatening muscle weakness and chronic fatigue⁵
- Approximately 15% of patients with gMG do not have antibodies directed against AChR, which is referred to as AChR-Ab- gMG⁶
- The AChR-Ab- gMG population is heterogeneous and includes patients with autoantibodies targeting other components of the neuromuscular junction, including MuSK and LRP4⁷
 - MuSK and LRP4 autoantibodies have been detected in $\approx 5\%$ and $\approx 1\%$ - 5% of patients with gMG, respectively, while $\approx 10\%$ of patients have no identifiable autoantibodies^{5,6,8,9}
 - In all known subgroups of acquired AChR-Ab- gMG, the disease is considered IgG mediated⁷
- Treatment for patients with AChR-Ab- gMG predominantly consists of off-label therapies, and efficacy has not been proven for immunosuppressive treatments such as corticosteroids and NSISITs^{10,11}
- Patients with AChR-Ab- gMG are often either excluded from clinical trials or represent a small subpopulation of the enrolled population, which limits the ability to draw conclusions¹²⁻¹⁶
- Recent evidence suggests clinical outcomes for patients with AChR-Ab- gMG treated with currently available treatments are worse than for patients with AChR-Ab+ gMG¹⁷⁻¹⁸

OBJECTIVE

To determine the efficacy and safety of 10 mg/kg IV efgartigimod compared with placebo in AChR-Ab- participants with gMG

SUMMARY



ADAPT SERON is a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled, Phase 3, parallel-group trial evaluating efgartigimod IV in AChR-Ab- gMG



Participants will all have confirmed acquired gMG based on review of an MG Diagnostic Adjudication Committee



This Phase 3 trial will provide important data on the efficacy and safety of efgartigimod IV in the treatment of AChR-Ab- gMG



Recruitment is ongoing

Estimated primary completion date: Summer 2025

ENDPOINTS

PRIMARY ENDPOINT

MG-ADL total score change from baseline to Day 29 (Week 4) in part A

SECONDARY ENDPOINTS

Key Secondary Endpoints

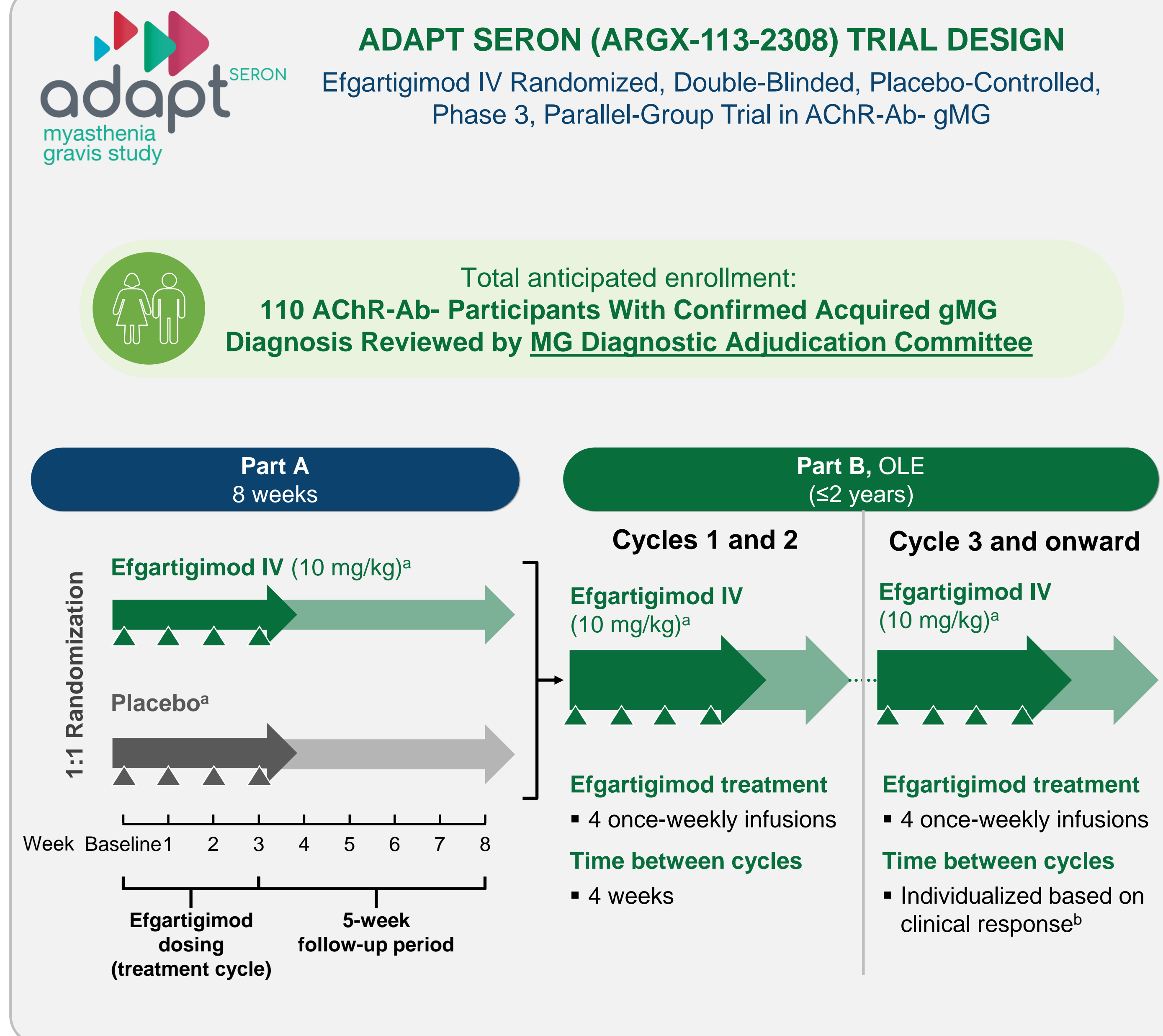
- QMG total score change from baseline to Day 29 (Week 4) in part A
- Proportion of participants who are both MG-ADL and QMG responders^{a,b} in part A

Other Secondary Endpoints

- Proportion of participants with MSE (defined as an MG-ADL total score of 0 or 1)
- Proportion of participants who are MG-ADL responders^a or QMG responders^b
- Proportion of participants who are early MG-ADL responders^c
- MG-ADL and QMG total score actual values and changes from baseline scores over time
- MG-QoL15r score change from baseline to Day 29 (Week 4) in part A
- MG-QoL15r and EQ-5D-5L VAS actual values and changes from baseline scores over time
- Incidence and severity of adverse events, serious adverse events, laboratory test results, vital signs, and electrocardiogram results
- Total IgG concentration actual values and percent changes from baseline over time

^aMG-ADL responder is defined as a participant achieving ≥ 2 -point reduction in the MG-ADL total score compared to baseline that is maintained for the next 4 consecutive weeks, with the first reduction occurring no later than 1 week after the last administration of IMP in part A. ^bQMG responder is defined as a participant achieving ≥ 3 -point reduction in the QMG score compared to baseline and maintained for the next 4 consecutive weeks, with the first reduction occurring no later than 1 week after the last administration of IMP in part A. ^cEarly MG-ADL responder is defined as a participant having onset of MG-ADL response no later than 2 weeks after the first administration of IMP in part A.

Scan here for more information on the ADAPT SERON website



REFERENCES

- Ulrichs P, et al. *J Clin Invest*. 2018;128(10):4372-4386. 2. Howard JF Jr, et al. [published correction appears in *Lancet Neurol*. 2021;20(8):e5]. *Lancet Neurol*. 2021;20(7):526-536. 3. Guptill JT, et al. *Autoimmunity*. 2022;55(8):620-631. 4. Sesarman A, et al. *Cell Mol Life Sci*. 2010;67(15):2533-2550. 5. Gilhus NE. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375(26):2570-2581. 6. Behin A, Le Panse R. *J Neuromuscul Dis*. 2018;5(3):265-277. 7. Gilhus NE, et al. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. 2019;5(1):30. 8. Gilhus NE, et al. *Nat Rev Neurol*. 2016;12(5):259-268. 9. Vinciguerra C, et al. *Brain Sci*. 2023;13(8):1286. 10. Verschuren JJ, et al. *Lancet Neurol*. 2022;21(2):188-202. 11. Wierdt H, et al. *Ther Adv Neurol Disord*. 2023;16:1-31. 12. Howard JF Jr, et al. *Lancet Neurol*. 2017;16(12):976-986. 13. Howard JF Jr, et al. *Ther Adv Neurol Disord*. 2024;17:17562864241243186. 14. Meisel A, et al. *J Neurol*. 2023;270(8):3862-3875. 15. Howard JF Jr, et al. Poster presented at: American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) Annual Meeting; November 1-4, 2023; Phoenix, AZ. 16. Li Y, et al. Poster presented at: American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) Annual Meeting; November 1-4, 2023; Phoenix, AZ. 17. Martinez-Harms R, et al. *Eur J Neurol*. 2024;31(1):e16022. 18. Sanders DB, et al. *Muscle Nerve*. 2023;67(4):291-296.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

The authors gratefully acknowledge the clinicians, patient organizations, and scientists who have collaborated on the design of this trial. JFH: Ad Scintiam, Alexion AstraZeneca Rare Disease, argenx, Cartesian Therapeutics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MGFA, Muscular Dystrophy Association, NIH, UCB, AcademicCME, Biologix, CheckRare CME, CoreEvias, CurieBio, Hansa, Amgen, Biohaven, Medscape CME, Merck EMB Serono, HMD, Novartis, PeerView CME, Physicians Education Resource (PER) CME, Platform CME, Regeneron, Sanofi, Seismon, TG Therapeutics, and Toleranzia AB. JG, RHJ, FG, and SS: argenx. Medical writing and editorial support for this presentation were provided by Precision AQ and funded by argenx.