**SYNOPSIS**

Patients with skin of color have an increased risk of acne and inflammation-related sequelae, including post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH) associated with acne resolution or initiation from treatment. Topical retinoids such as tazarotene treat acne by inhibiting sebaceous gland function and reducing keratinocyte proliferation. Several factors may influence the efficacy and safety of tazarotene lotion. One study found that tazarotene 0.045% lotion led to improvements in inflammation-associated postinflammatory hyperpigmentation. Individual results may vary.

**RESULTS**

Rates of TEAEs were similar for TAZ-treated Black and White participants. TEAEs were mostly mild or moderate and unrelated to treatment (Table 1).

**OBJECTIVE**

Data from two phase 3 studies were pooled to evaluate the efficacy and safety of once-daily tazarotene 0.045% lotion compared with vehicle lotion in participants of White or Black race (well-identified).

**METHODS**

In two phase 3, double-blind, 12-week studies (NCT03168334, NCT03168311), participants with moderate-to-severe acne were randomized 1:1 to tazarotene 0.045% lotion or vehicle lotion (N=1614).

In these studies, Ceralast™ hydrating cleanser and Ceralast™ moisturizing lotion (CloseOn) were provided as needed for optimal moisturization/cleaning of the skin.

This pooled, post hoc analysis included subsets of participants segmented by White (n=1191) or Black race (n=623).

Conceivably endpoints were inflammatory/noninflammatory lesion counts and treatment success; treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and cutaneous safety and tolerability were also evaluated.

**CONCLUSIONS**

In two pooled phase 3 studies, tazarotene 0.045% lotion demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of moderate-to-severe acne in both Black and White participants.

In White participants, tazarotene was significant versus vehicle for all 3 efficacy assessments.

In Black participants, only reduction in noninflammatory lesions was significant for tazarotene versus vehicle, the lack of a statistical difference in the reduction of inflammatory lesions is likely due to the high response rate to vehicle in Black participants, whereas the statistical analysis of treatment success may have been limited in part by the small sample size.

Thicker formulation of tazarotene was well tolerated compared with vehicle lotion, and treatment with tazarotene lotion led to improvements in inflammation-associated sequelae of acne, including post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation.

**Novel Polymeric Tazarotene 0.045% Lotion for Moderate-to-Severe Acne: Pooled Phase 3 Analysis by Race**

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