

«Πότε μεγιστοποιείται το όφελος με την χρήση των JAKis στη ΡΑ;»

**17<sup>ο</sup> ΕΠΕΜΥ** Πανελλήνιο Συνέδριο

2-5 Οκτωβρίου 2025

Με φυσική παρουσία και διαδικτυακή παρακολούθηση

Ρέθυμνο Κρήτης  
Ξενοδοχείο Theartemis Palace

ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΜΥΟΣΚΕΛΕΤΙΚΗ ΥΓΕΙΑ



Νέστορας Αυγουστίδης, Ρευματολόγος, Επιμελητής Α',  
ΠΑΓΝΗ

**Για την ομιλία θα υπάρχει τιμητική αμοιβή από την εταιρία  
ΦΑΡΜΑΣΕΡΒ-LILLY**

## Presentation outlines



- Three case presentations of different RA patients treated with Baricitinib

## Clinical case



- 40 years old female , six months history of seropositive , CCP (+), RF(-) RA
- Comorbidities : past smoking history, BMI=28 Kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Family history: mother RA
- Occupation: Business executive
- Initial assessment: ESR=40, CRP=1.5 <0.5 mg/dl, SJC=6, TJC=5, VAS=60 , CDAI=23, DAS-28 (ESR)=5.36, HAQ- DI=0.88
- X-rays= (-) erosions
- Initially treated with Prednisolone 7.5 mg/day with tapering to 5 mg/day and methotrexate 15 mg /week with gradual dose escalation to 20 mg/week .

- In the clinical and laboratory assessment four months since diagnosis still on HDA: treatment at this stage Prednisolone 5 mg/day and methotrexate 20 mg orally /week
- ESR=35, CRP=1.2<0.5 ,TJC=7, SJC=4, VAS=50, CDAI, DAS-28(ESR)= 5.23, CDAI=23, HAQ- DI=0.86
- After discussion with patient Baricitinib 4 mg/day was initiated

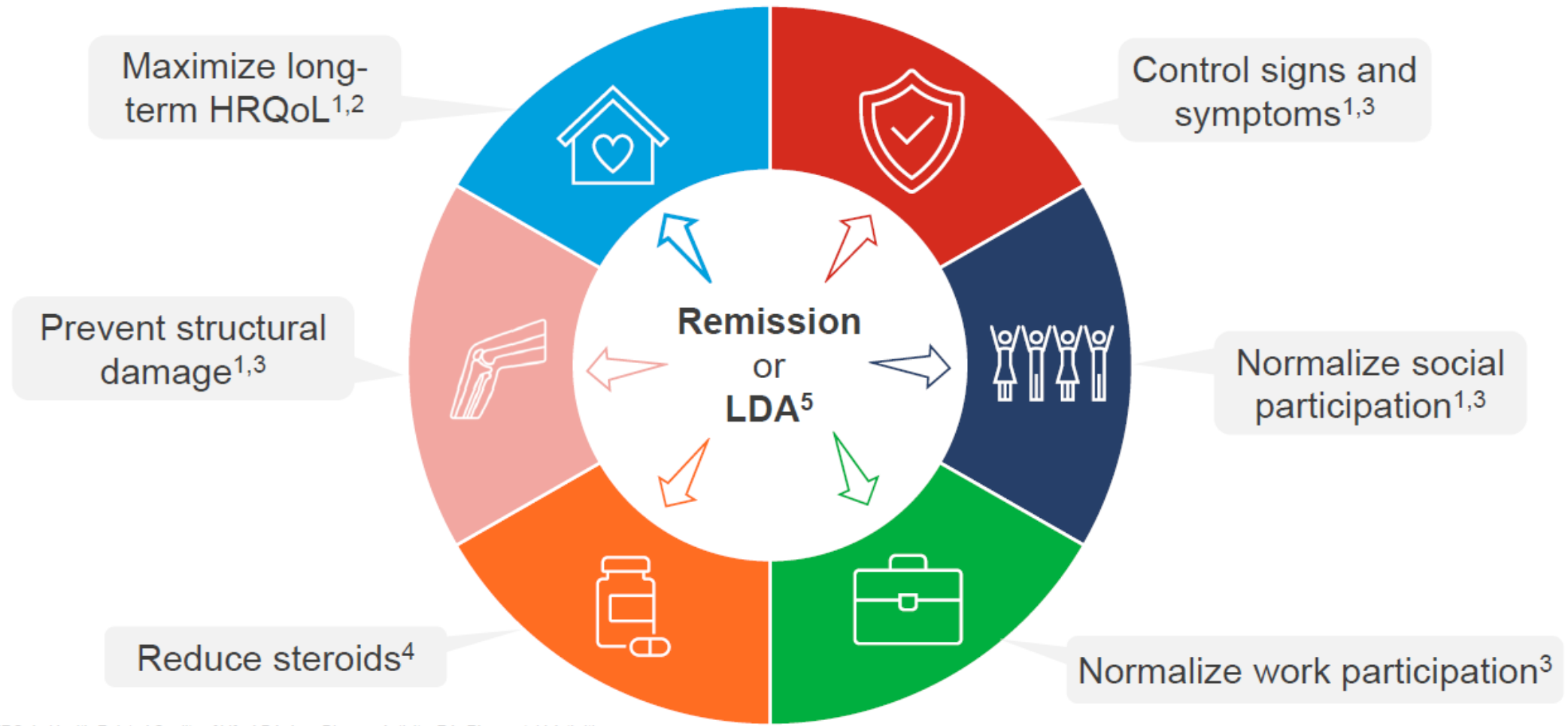
## Clinical case



- In the clinical and laboratory assessment four months after BARI initiation:
- Patient was off steroids
- She was still on methotrexate 20 mg/day orally
- ESR=15, CRP=0.6 <0.5 ,TJC=1, SJC=1, VAS=20, CDAI=, DAS-28(ESR)= 3.02, CDAI=6, LDA
- HAQ-DI=0.25

- Good EULAR Response :  
change in DAS28(ESR)=2.21>  
1.2 and DAS28<3.2
- Change in HAQ: 0.61
- MCID:0.25

# Treatment Goals in RA

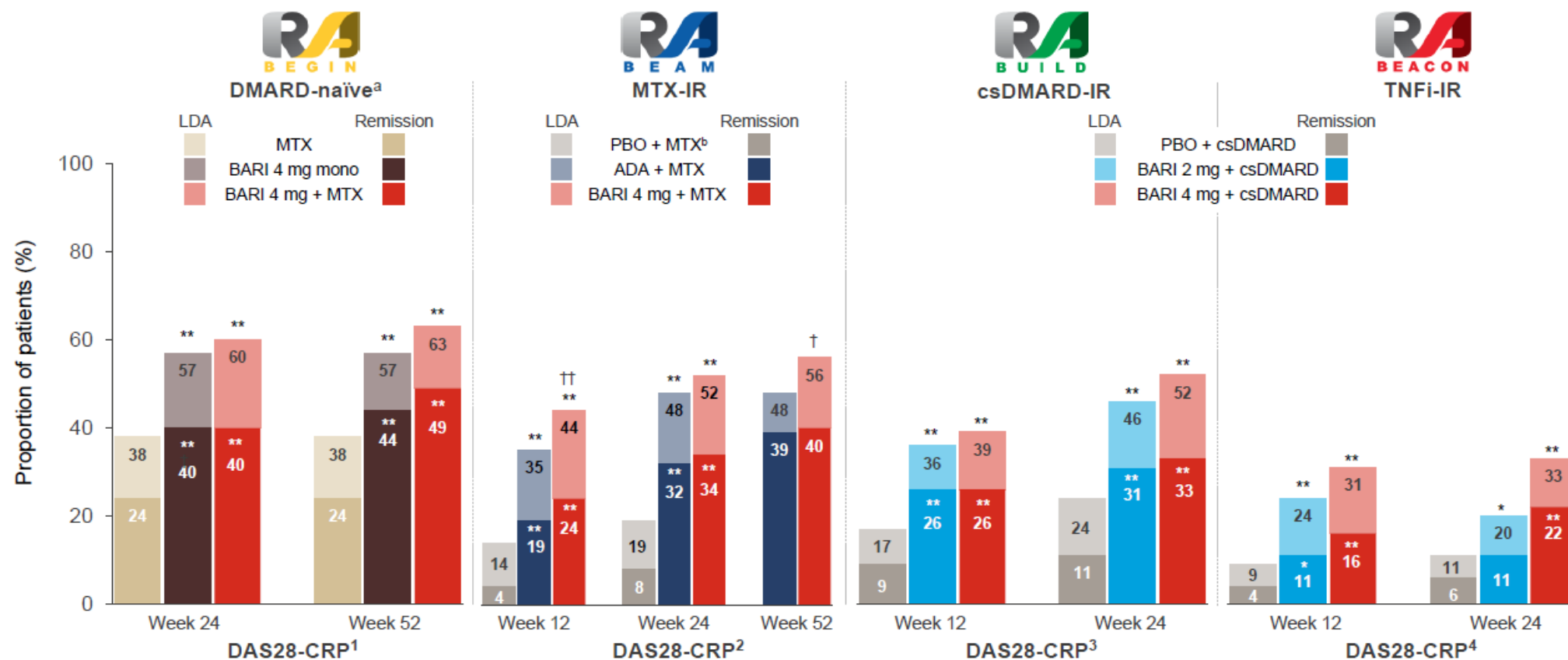


HRQoL=Health-Related Quality of Life; LDA=Low Disease Activity; RA=Rheumatoid Arthritis.

1. Solomon DH, et al. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2014;66(4):775–82. 2. Scott IC, et al. RMD Open. 2016;2:e000270. 3. Smolen JS, et al. Ann Rheum Dis. 2020;79(6):685–99.

4. Hua C, et al. RMD Open. 2020;6:e000536. 5. Smolen JS, et al. Ann Rheum Dis. 2023;82(1):3–18.

# RCTs Demonstrated the Efficacy of Baricitinib Across Clinically Relevant Patient Populations



\*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.001 vs. MTX and PBO. †p<0.05; ‡p<0.01 vs. ADA. <sup>a</sup>Use in MTX-naïve population was off-label. <sup>b</sup>Patients receiving PBO were switched to BARI 4 mg at Week 24.

ADA=Adalimumab; BARI=Baricitinib; csDMARD=Conventional Synthetic DMARD; DAS28-CRP=Disease Activity Score 28 for Rheumatoid Arthritis with C-Reactive Protein; DMARD=Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; IR=Inadequate Responder; LDA=Low Disease Activity; Mono=Monotherapy; MTX=Methotrexate; PBO=Placebo; RCT=Randomized Controlled Trial; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.

1. Fleischmann R, et al. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2017;69(3):506–17. 2. Taylor PC, et al. N Engl J Med. 2017;376(7):652–62 (incl. Suppl.). 3. Dougados M, et al. Ann Rheum Dis. 2017;76(1):88–95 (incl. Suppl.).

4. Genovese MC, et al. N Engl J Med. 2016;374(13):1243–52 (incl. Suppl.).

# Baricitinib Was Non-Inferior and Statistically Superior to TNFi in ACR 50 Response at Week 12<sup>1</sup>

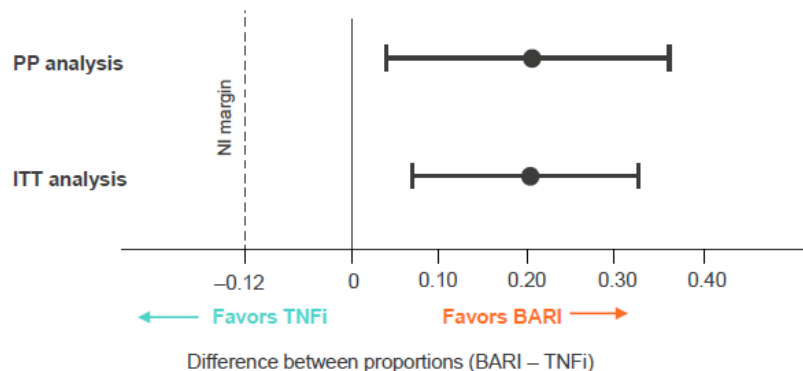
PERFECT-RA Study



## Treatment Response

- At 12 weeks, the lower bound of the 95% Wilson score CI for the difference in proportion of patients meeting ACR 50 was above the -12% NI margin and to the right of zero in both the PP and ITT analyses; hence, baricitinib was found to be **not only non-inferior but also statistically superior to TNFi**

### Difference in Proportion of Patients Achieving ACR 50 at Week 12<sup>a</sup>



#### ITT population

Comprised all subjects who correctly enrolled in the study

#### PP population

Excluded all subjects who met either of the following criteria:

- Discontinued the study
- Missing data for  $\geq 1$  assessment of the primary outcome (ACR 50) at baseline or 12 weeks

<sup>a</sup>The NI margin of 12% was based on previous studies in the RA population, including the RA-BEAM study.<sup>1,2</sup>

ACR 50=50% Improvement in the American College of Rheumatology Scale Score; BARI=Baricitinib; CI=Confidence Interval; ITT=Intention-to-Treat; NI=Non-Inferiority; PP=Per-Protocol; RA=Rheumatoid Arthritis; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.

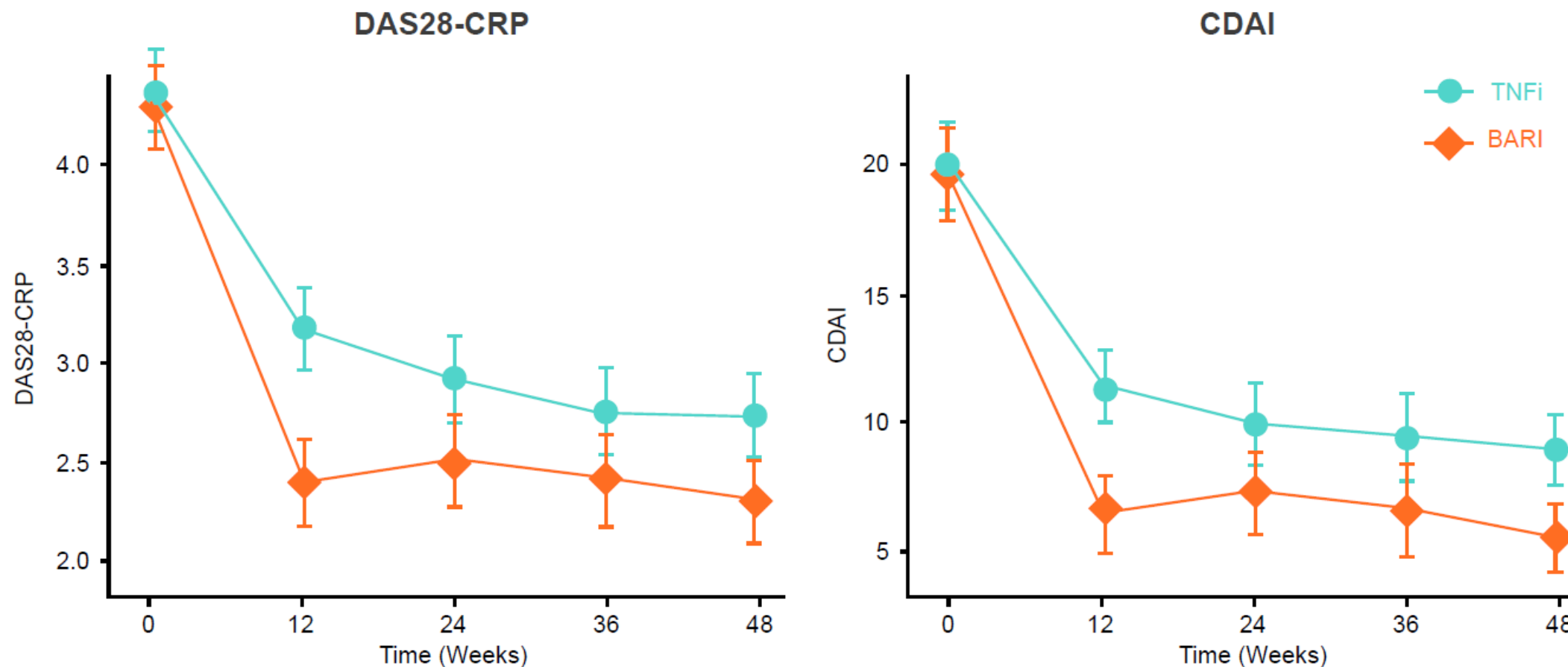
1. van de Laar CJ, et al. RMD Open. 2024;10(2):e004291 (incl. Suppl.). 2. Taylor PC, et al. N Engl J Med. 2017;376(7):652–62.

**Primary endpoint non inferiority and if so ACR50 response at week 12 (42% vs 20%).  
DAS28-CRP <2.6 at week 12 compared (75 % vs 46%) of TNFi patients.**



# Baricitinib Led to a More Rapid Decline in DAS28-CRP and CDAI Scores<sup>1</sup>

PERFECT-RA Study



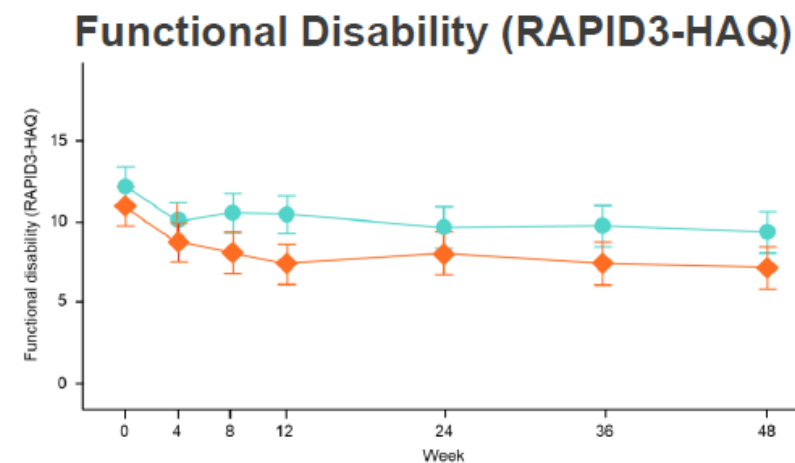
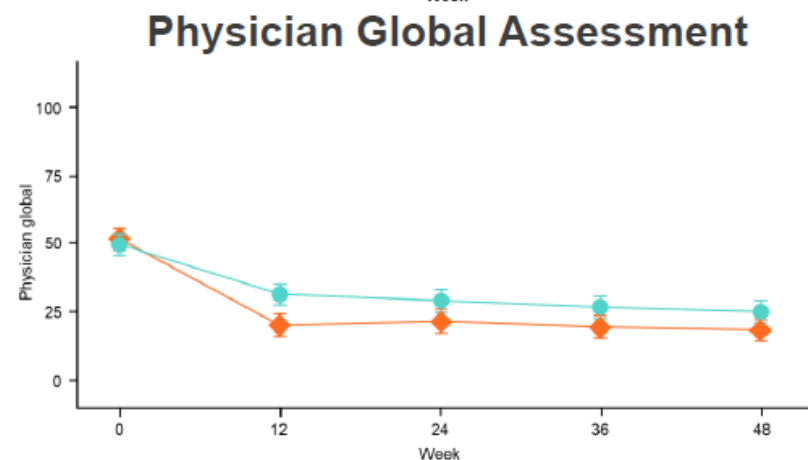
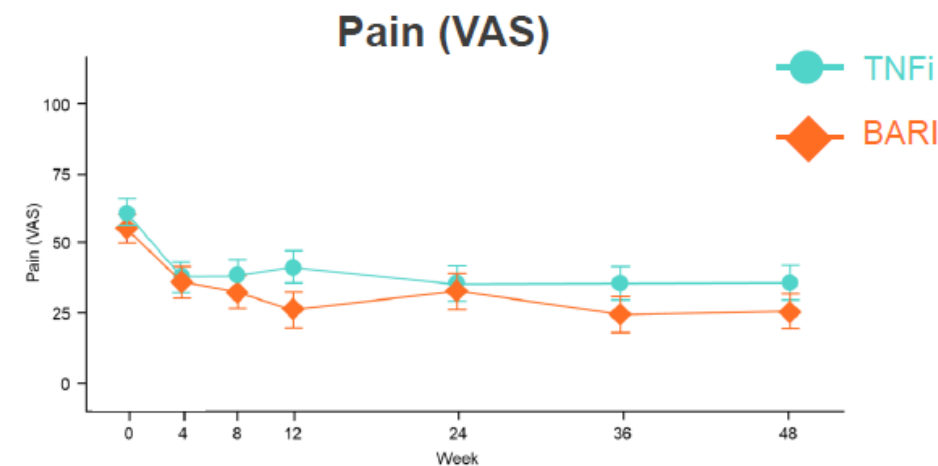
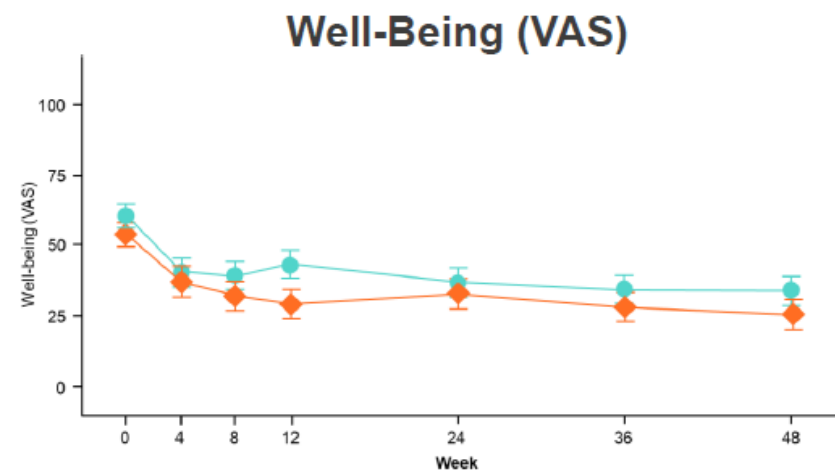
Figures show estimated marginal means. Error bars represent 95% Wald confidence interval.

BARI=Baricitinib; CDAI=Clinical Disease Activity Index; DAS28-CRP=Disease Activity Score 28 for Rheumatoid Arthritis with C-Reactive Protein; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.

1. van de Laar CJ, et al. RMD Open. 2024;10(2):e004291 (incl. Suppl.).

# Improvements in Patient-Reported Outcomes Were in Favor of Baricitinib Treatment<sup>1</sup>

PERFECT-RA Study



Figures show estimated marginal means. Error bars represent 95% Wald confidence interval.

BARI=Baricitinib; RAPID3-HAQ=Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3-Health Assessment Questionnaire; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor; VAS=Visual Analog Scale.

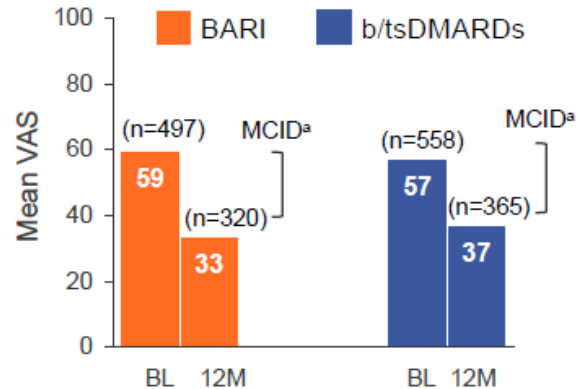
1. van de Laar CJ, et al. RMD Open. 2024;10(2):e004291 (incl. Suppl.).

# Baricitinib Was Associated with Pain Relief in the Real-World Setting

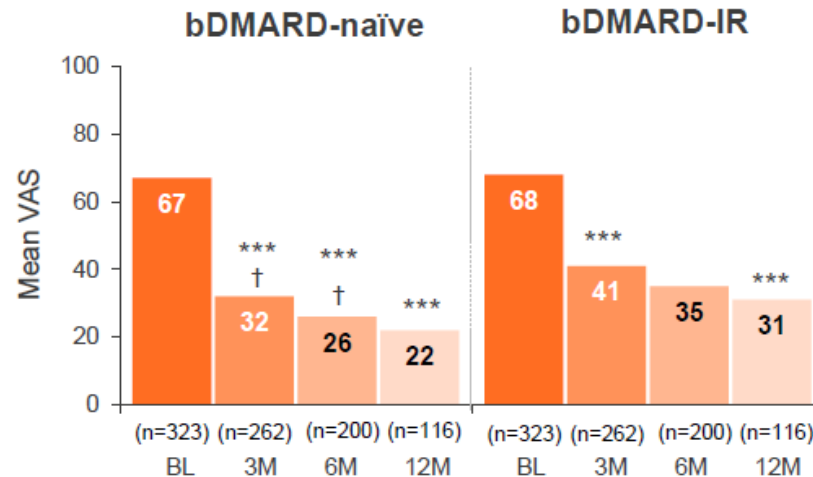
- Baricitinib treatment was associated with MCIDs in pain measured on the pain VAS at 12 months across multiple studies<sup>1-3</sup>
- In the Italian prospective study, most patients had a **significant reduction** in pain VAS as early as 3 months<sup>2</sup>
- In ORBIT-RA, **sustained reductions** in pain were seen at 6 and 12 months<sup>3</sup>



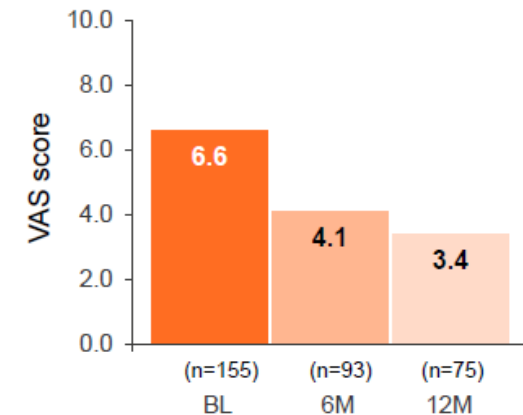
**RA-BE-REAL  
European Cohort<sup>1</sup>**



**Italian Prospective Study<sup>2</sup>**



**ORBIT-RA<sup>3</sup>**



\*\*\*p<0.0001 vs. baseline; †p<0.01 naïve vs. IR. <sup>a</sup>MCID for pain VAS on a scale of 0–100 mm is 20 mm when assessing pain across the severity spectrum.<sup>4,5</sup>

BARI=Baricitinib; BL=Baseline; b/tsDMARD=Biologic or Targeted Synthetic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; IR=Inadequate Responder; M=Month; MCID=Minimal Clinically Important Difference; n=Number of Patients Within Specified Category; VAS=Visual Analog Scale.

1. Alten R, et al. Poster presentation POS0666 at the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) meeting, 1–4 June, 2022, Copenhagen, Denmark.

2. Guidelli GM, et al. Clin Exp Rheumatol. 2021;39(4):868–73. 3. Hernández-Cruz B, et al. Rheumatol Ther. 2022;9(2):589–608. 4. Dworkin RH, et al. J Pain. 2008;9(2):105–21. 5. Salaffi F, et al. Eur J Pain. 2004;8(4):283–91.

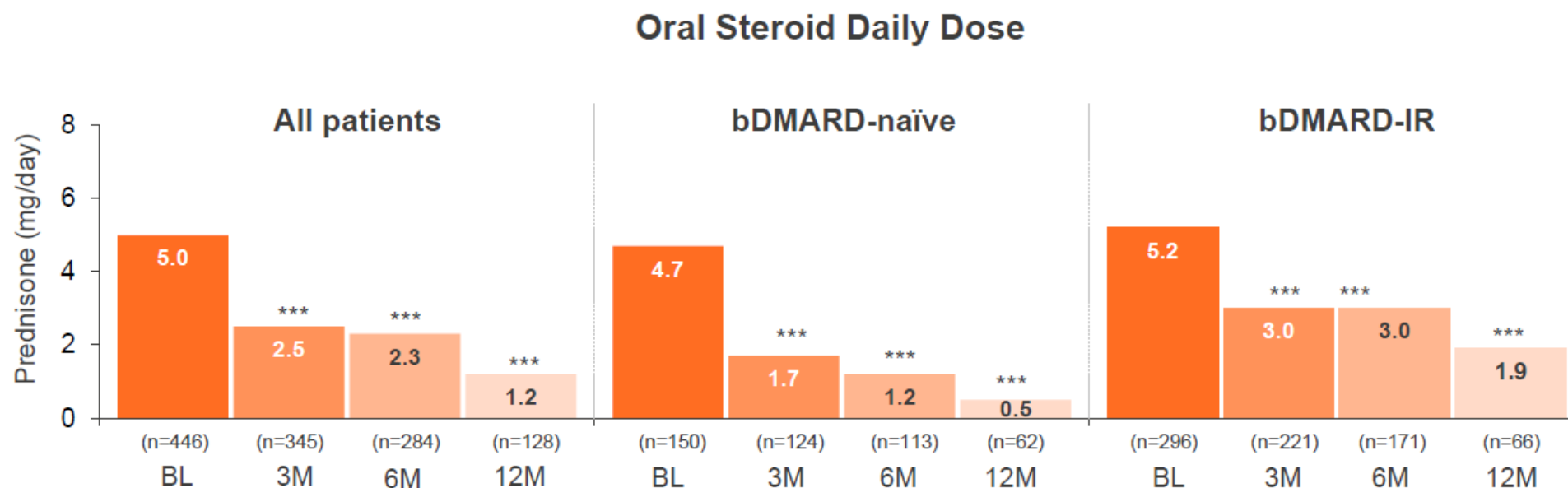
# Baricitinib Was Associated with a Reduction in Steroid Use in a Real-World Setting<sup>1</sup>

Italian  
Prospective Study



## Treatment Response

- A significant reduction in oral steroid dose was observed as early as 3 months in patients receiving baricitinib, regardless of prior bDMARD experience, and with or without concomitant MTX



\*\*\*p<0.0001 vs. baseline.

bDMARD=Biologic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; BL=Baseline; IR=Inadequate Responder; M=Month; MTX=Methotrexate; n=Number of Patients in the Specified Category.

1. Guidelli GM, et al. Clin Exp Rheumatol. 2021;39(4):868–73.



- **Efficacy across all relevant populations in RCTs**
- **Statistically superior in comparison to anti-TNF-a**
- **Rapid decline of disease activity indices**
- **Significant improvements in PROs**
- **Reduction of steroid use in RWS**

## Clinical case

- 65 years old female , seven -year history of seropositive erosive , RF(+), CCP (-) RA
- Comorbidities : past smoking history, A.H, Dyslipidemia BMI=32 Kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Previous bDMARDs : Adalimumab , Tocilizumab =secondary failures
- Current treatment : Methotrexate 20 mg/week + Abatacept 125 mg/week
- D2TRA still on HDA
- ESR=42, CRP=2<0.5 ,TJC=10, SJC=4, VAS=70
- DAS-28(ESR)=5.93, CDAI=27, HAQ-DI= 1.13



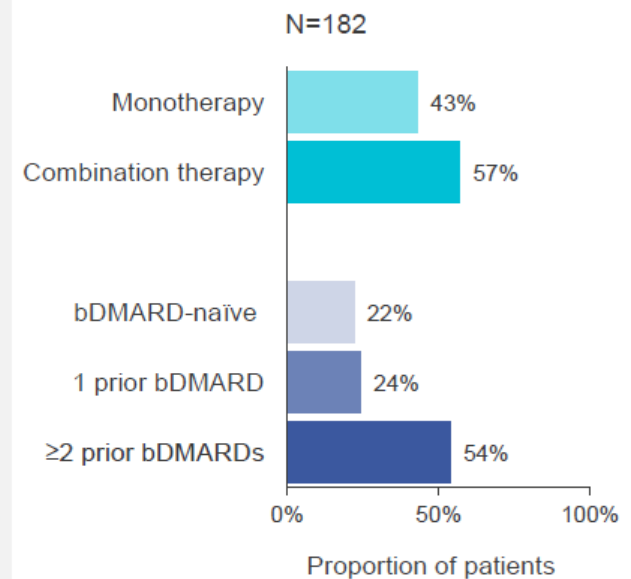
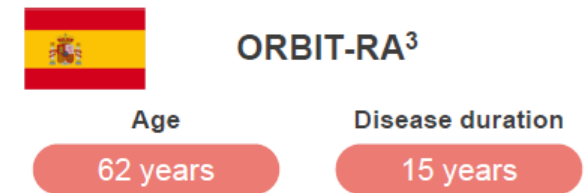
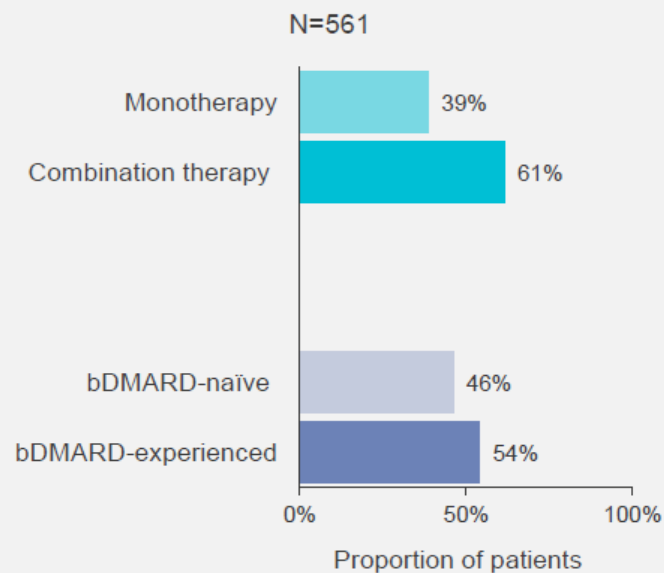
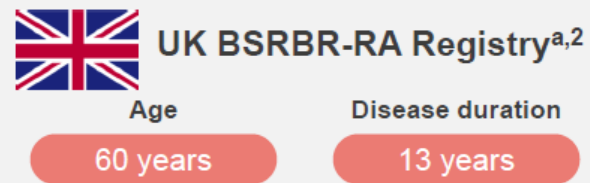
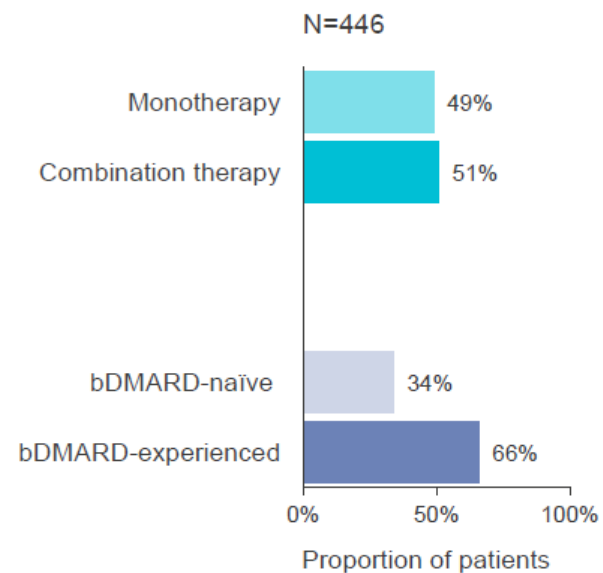
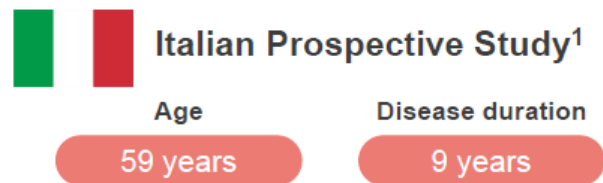
## Clinical case



- Switch from ABT to Baricitinib 4 mg /day
- Four months after BARI initiation:
- ESR=18, CRP=0.8<0.5 ,TJC=2, SJC=2, VAS=30
- DAS-28(ESR)= 3.63, CDAI=10, HAQ-DI= 0.5

- Change in DAS28(ESR)=2.3> 1.2
- CDAI=LDA, index change 17
- MID :12 ( if starting on HDA)
- Change in HAQ: 0.63
- MCID:0.25

## In Selected RWE Studies of Baricitinib, Most Patients Were Biologic-Experienced at Baseline



Age and disease duration values are presented as mean averages unless otherwise indicated.

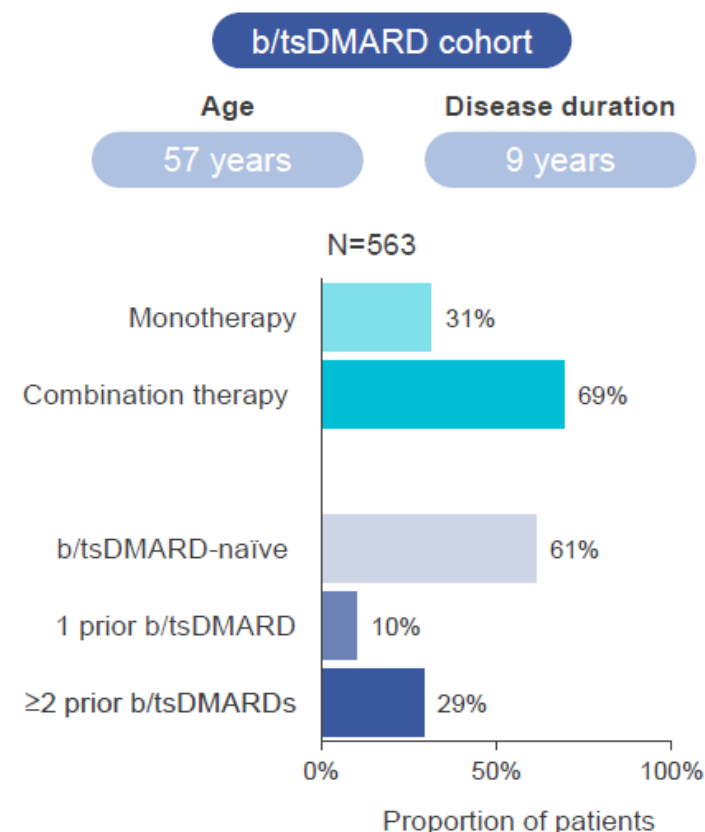
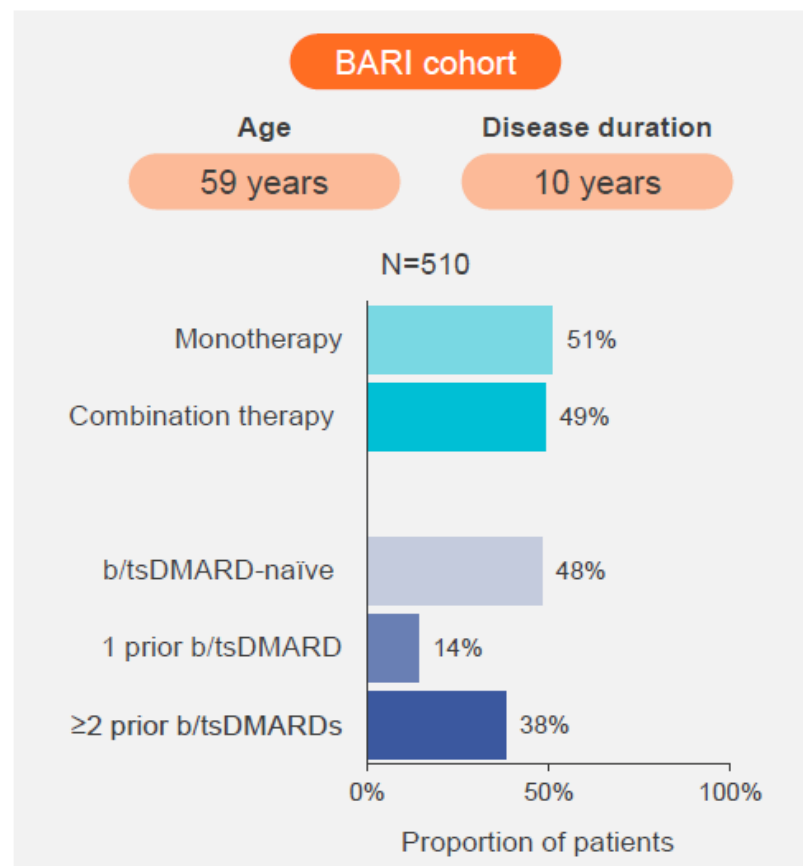
bDMARD=Biologic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; BSRBR=British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; RA=Rheumatoid Arthritis; RWE=Real-World Evidence.

1. Guidelli GM, et al. Clin Exp Rheumatol. 2021;39(4):868–73. 2. Edwards CJ, et al. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2023;62:3400–8. 3. Hernández-Cruz B, et al. Rheumatol Ther. 2022;9(2):589–608.



# Baricitinib-Treated Patients in RA-BE-REAL Were Older and Had a Longer Duration of RA at Baseline vs. b/tsDMARD-Treated Cohorts<sup>1</sup>

## RA-BE-REAL European Cohort



Age and disease duration values are presented as mean averages.

BARI=Baricitinib; b/tsDMARD=Biologic or Targeted Synthetic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; RA=Rheumatoid Arthritis.

1. Alten R, et al. Rheumatol Ther. 2023;10:1575–95.

# A Numerically Higher Proportion of Patients Achieved Remission with Baricitinib vs. b/tsDMARDs




RA-BE-REAL Study



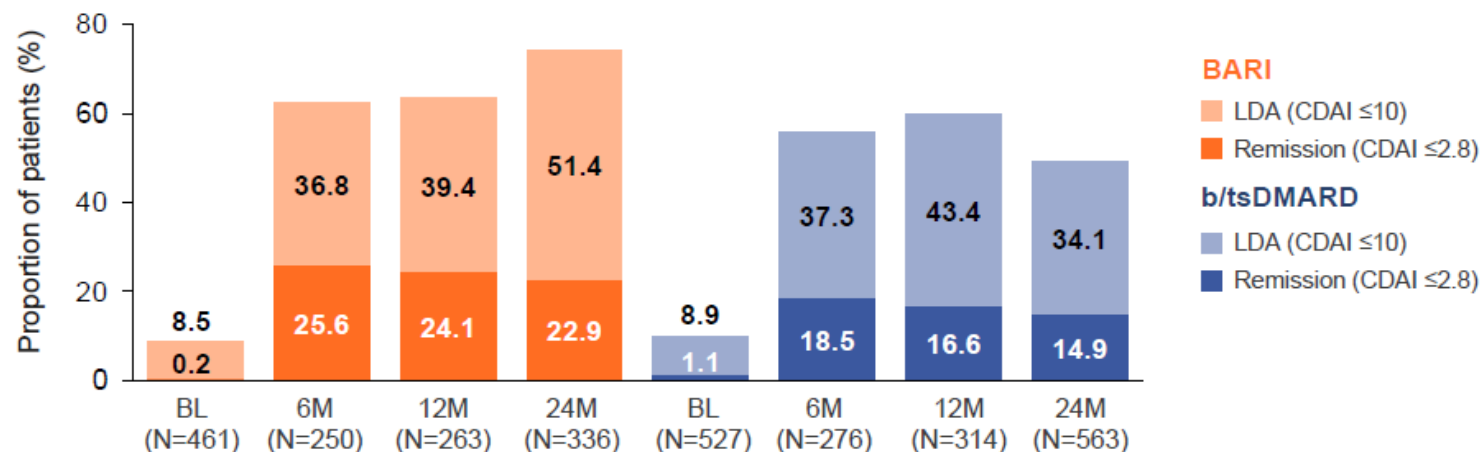
## Treatment Response<sup>1</sup>

- Despite being older and having longer disease duration at baseline, a numerically higher percentage of patients treated with baricitinib achieved remission compared with b/tsDMARD-treated patients

### Baseline characteristics<sup>1</sup>

|   | BARI | b/tsDMARD |
|---|------|-----------|
|  Age, years              | 59   | 57        |
|  Disease duration, years | 10   | 9         |
|  b/tsDMARD-naïve       | 48%  | 61%       |

### CDAI Response Rates at 6, 12, and 24 Months<sup>1-3</sup>



Missing values were imputed using non-responder imputation for binary variables LDA and remission. Missing values were imputed using modified Baseline Observation Carried Forward for continuous variable of CDAI.

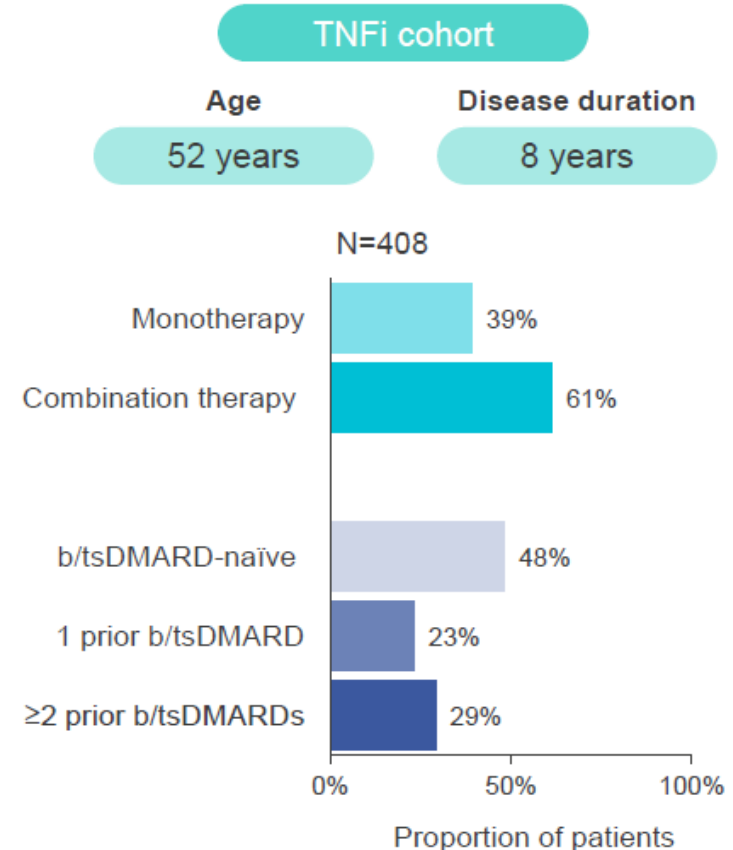
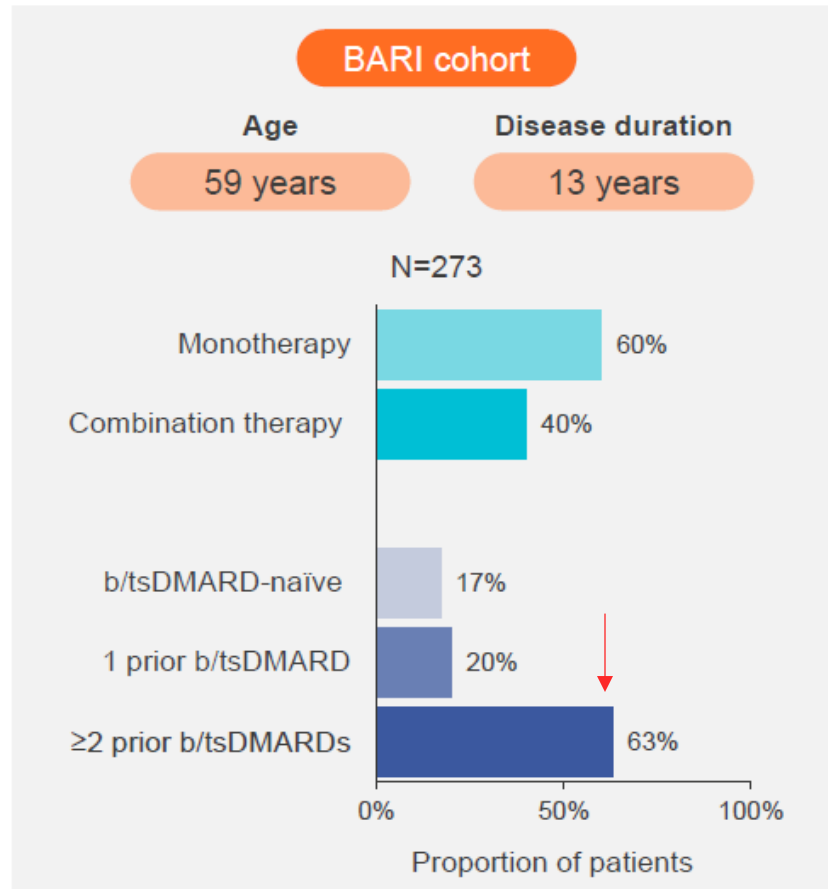
BARI=Baricitinib; BL=Baseline; b/tsDMARD=Biologic or Targeted Synthetic DMARD; CDAI=Clinical Disease Activity Index; DMARD=Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; LDA=Low Disease Activity; M=Month; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population.

1. Alten R, et al. Rheumatol Ther. 2023;10:1575–95. 2. Alten R, et al. Rheumatol Ther. 2023;10:73–93.

3. Alten R, et al. Poster presentation POS0666 at the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Convergence, Nov 10–14, 2022, Philadelphia, PY, USA.

# In Selected RWE Studies, Baricitinib-Treated Cohorts Were Older, Had Longer Disease Duration, and Higher bDMARD Exposure vs. TNFi-Treated Cohorts<sup>1</sup>

## Swiss SCQM-RA Cohort



Age and disease duration values are presented as mean averages unless otherwise indicated.

BARI=Baricitinib; b/tsDMARD=Biologic or Targeted Synthetic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; RA=Rheumatoid Arthritis; RWE=Real-World Evidence; SCQM-RA=Swiss Clinical Quality Management in Rheumatoid Arthritis; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.

1. Gilbert BTP, et al. BMJ Open. 2024;14:e072300.

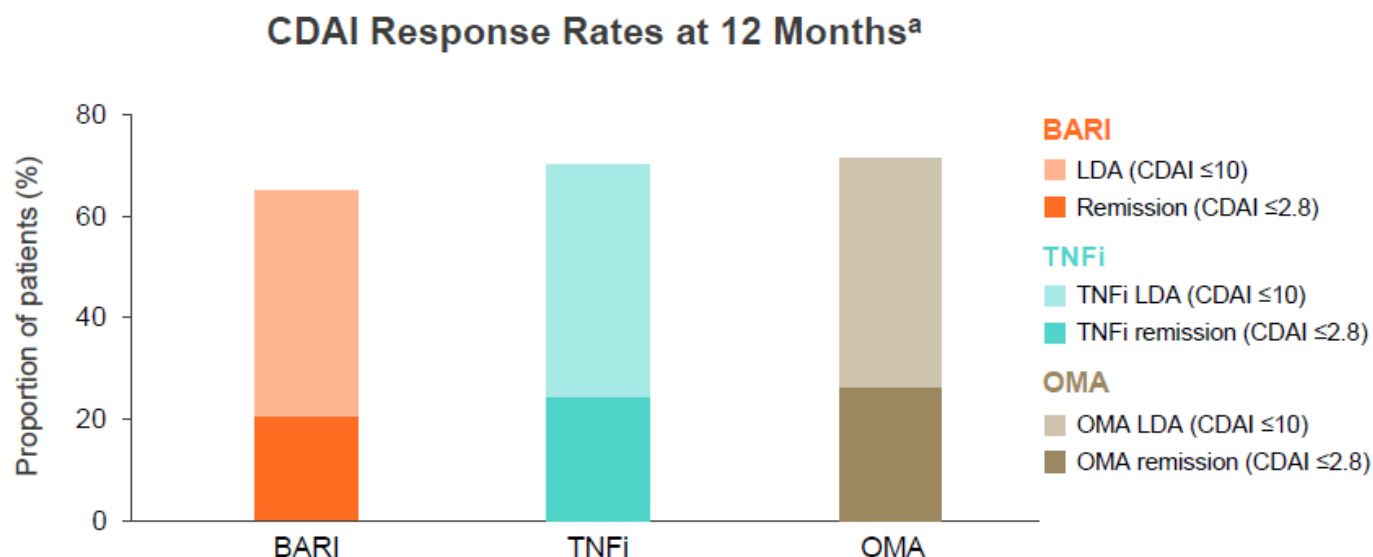
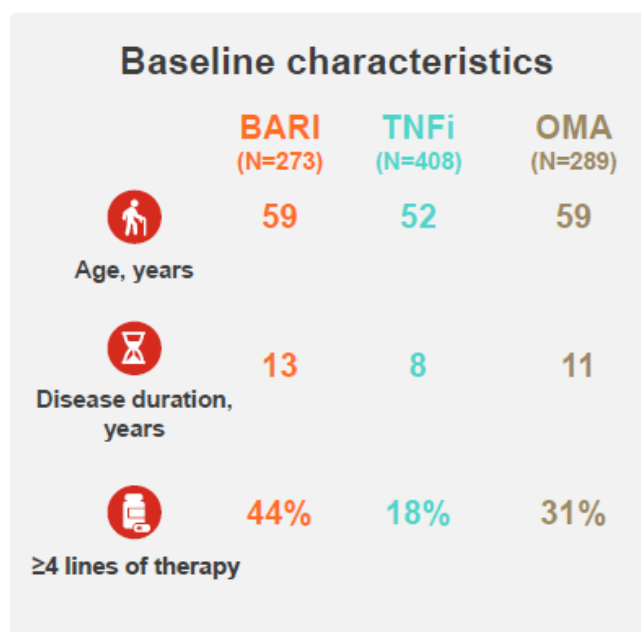
# Similar Responses Achieved with Baricitinib Despite Use in Harder-to-Treat Patients vs. bDMARD-Treated Cohorts<sup>1</sup>

SCQM-RA Cohort



## Treatment Response

- Baricitinib treatment was associated with similar LDA/remission rates despite being prescribed to older patients, with longer disease duration, and more previous treatment failures compared with the OMA and TNFi group



<sup>a</sup>Response rates computed using the CARRAC method.

BARI=Baricitinib; bDMARD=Biologic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; CARRAC=Confounder-Adjusted Response Rate with Attrition Correction; CDAI=Clinical Disease Activity Index; LDA=Low Disease Activity; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; OMA=Other Mode of Action; SCQM-RA=Swiss Clinical Quality Management in Rheumatoid Arthritis; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.

1. Gilbert BTP, et al. BMJ Open. 2024;14:e072300.



## **SUMMARY**

### **In RWS**

- **Patients treated with Baricitinib were older with longer disease duration & higher bDMARD exposure**
- **Baricitinib has shown its efficacy in harder to treat patients**
- **Similar or even numerically higher proportions of patients achieved remission in comparison with other b/ts DMARDs**

## Clinical case

- 45 years old male , four years history of non-erosive seronegative RA
- Comorbidities : non smoker, A.H
- On methotrexate 15 mg/week & BARI 4 mg/day on long term clinical remission , DAS 28 ESR< 2.6 , CDAI< 2.8 on repeated clinical assessments
- Two years since diagnosis and after discussion with patient methotrexate was stopped and 6 months later patient was still on remission



## Clinical case



- Further de-escalation of his treatment with reduction of BARI dose to 2 mg day according to patient preference
- Now already on BARI 2mg/day for one and a half year and patient is still on clinical remission, **DAS 28 ESR< 2.6 , CDAI< 2.8 on three consecutive clinical assessments**

# EULAR recommends tapering DMARDs after glucocorticoids



## EULAR recommendations on dose tapering<sup>a</sup>

- If a patient is in persistent remission after having tapered glucocorticoids, one can consider **tapering bDMARDs or tsDMARDs**, especially if this treatment is combined with a csDMARD
- If a patient is in persistent remission, **tapering the csDMARD** could be considered

<sup>a</sup>Defined by EULAR as the reduction of drug dose or an increase of application interval. May include cessation (tapering to 0), but then only after slow reduction.

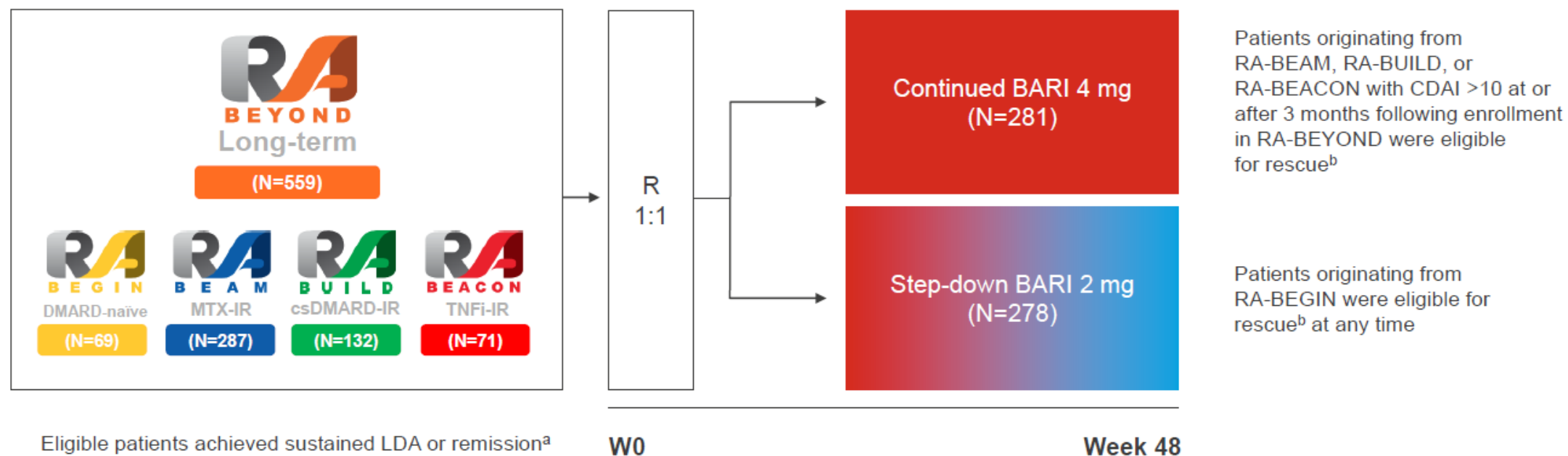
bDMARD=Biologic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug; csDMARD=Conventional Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug; EULAR=European League Against Rheumatism; tsDMARD=Targeted Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug.

Smolen JS, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2023;82:3-18.



# RA-BEYOND study design: dose reduction in patients with sustained disease control

Data cut-off: September 2016



<sup>a</sup>Sustained LDA/remission was defined by CDAI  $\leq 10$  for patients from RA-BEAM, RA-BUILD, RA-BEACON/CDAI  $\leq 2.8$  for patients from RA-BEGIN at two consecutive visits  $\geq 3$  months apart.

<sup>b</sup>Rescue therapy was open-label baricitinib 4 mg and/or addition or increase of background csDMARD.

BARI=Baricitinib; CDAI=Clinical Disease Activity Index; csDMARD=Conventional Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug; IR=Inadequate Responder; LDA=Low Disease Activity; MTX=Methotrexate; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; RA=Rheumatoid Arthritis; TNF=Tumor Necrosis Factor; W=Week.

Takeuchi T, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2019;78(2):171-178.

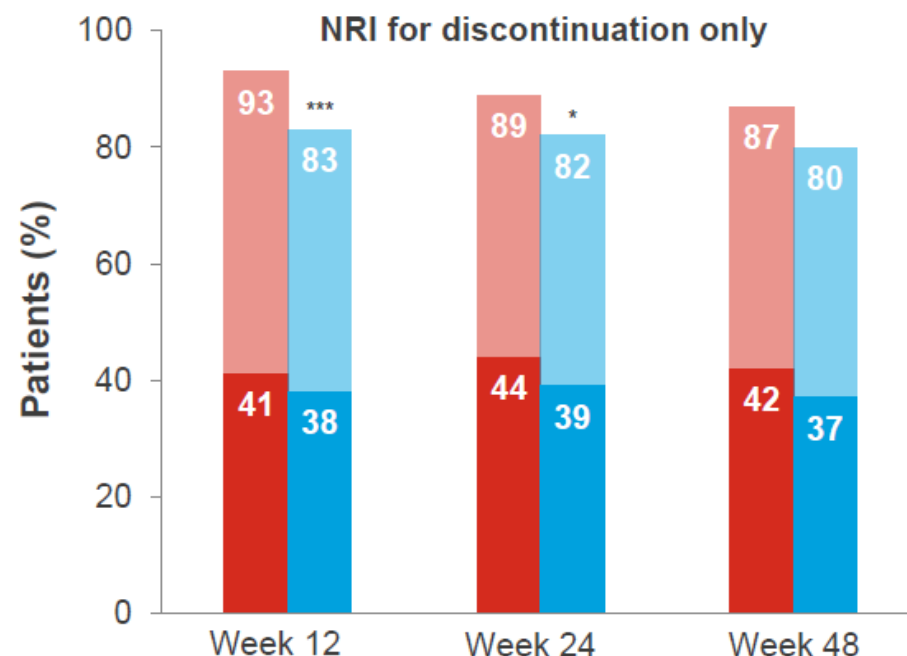
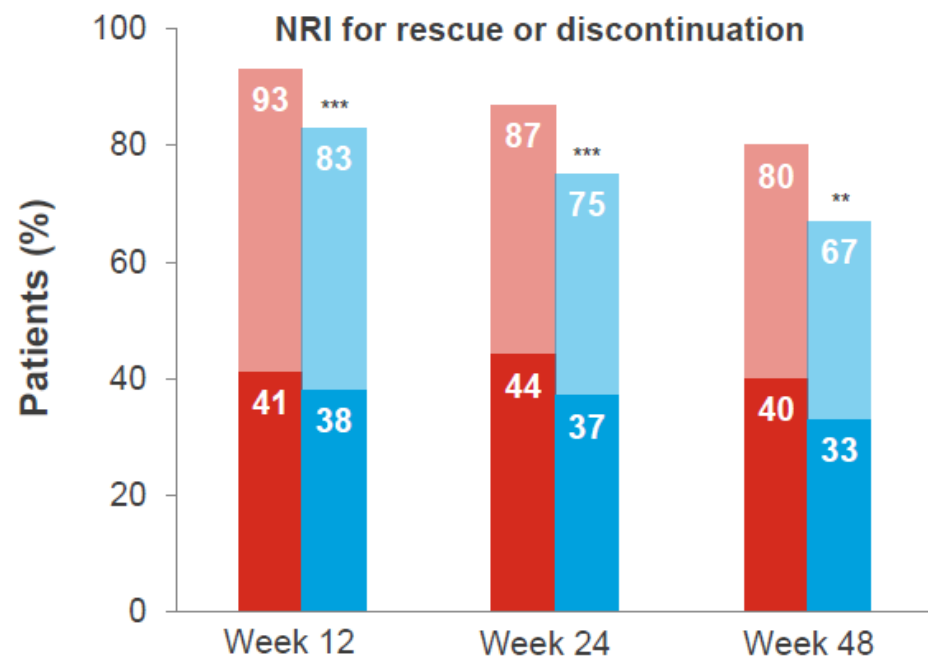
# LDA/Remission were maintained up to Week 48 after step-down

## Patients requiring rescue treatment were able to regain or maintain disease control

### Patients achieving LDA or clinical remission through Week 48

Step-down BARI 2 mg (N=278) Continued BARI 4 mg (N=281)

LDA Remission LDA Remission



**RA**  
BEAM  
MTX-IR

**RA**  
BUILD  
csDMARD-IR

**RA**  
BEACON  
TNFi-IR

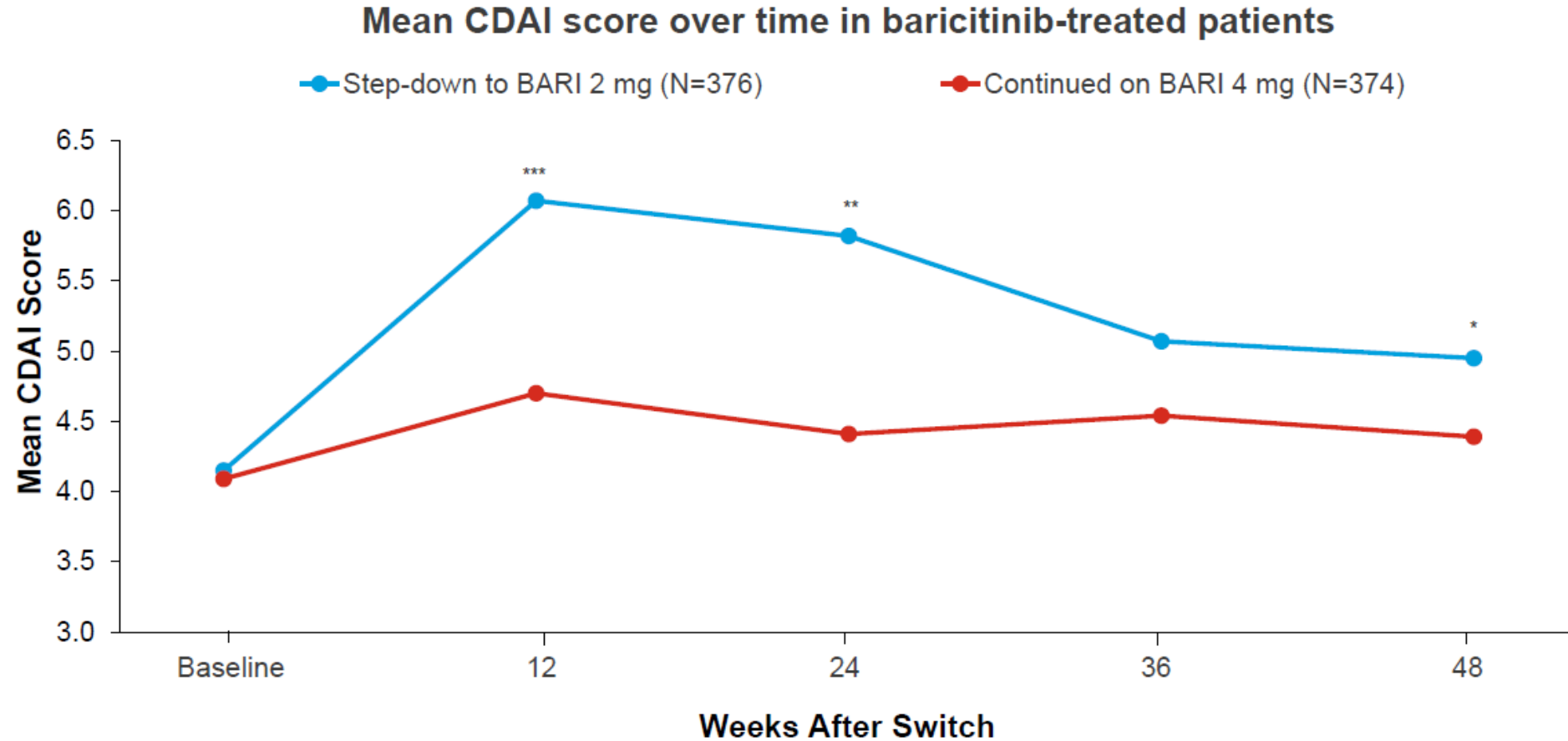
**RA**  
BEYOND  
Long-term

Data cut-off: September 2016. P-value vs. continued on BARI 4 mg: \*\*\*p<.001, \*\*p<.01, \*p<.05.

BARI=Baricitinib; csDMARD=Conventional Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug; IR=Inadequate Responder; LDA=Low Disease Activity; MTX=Methotrexate; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; NRI=Non-responder imputation; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.

Takeuchi T, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2019;78(2):171-178.

# Improvements in CDAI scores were maintained after step-down through Week 48



Data cut-off: September 2016. p-value vs. continued on BARI 4 mg: \*\*\* $p \leq .001$ , \*\* $p \leq .01$ , \* $p \leq .05$ .  
BARI=Baricitinib; CDAI=Clinical Disease Activity Index; csDMARD=Conventional Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug; IR=Inadequate Responder; LDA=Low Disease Activity;  
MTX=Methotrexate; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; NRI=Non-responder imputation; TNFi=Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.  
Takeuchi T, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2019;78(2):171-178.

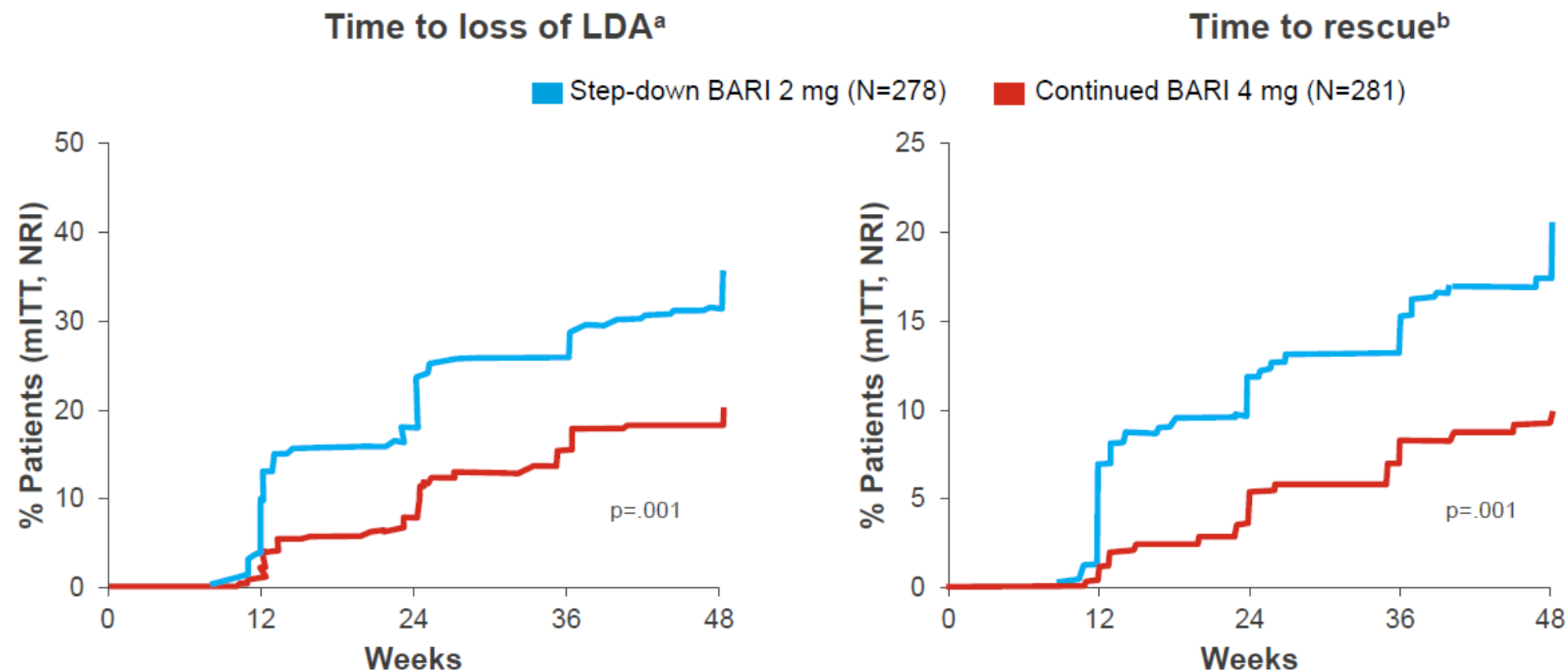
RA  
BEAM  
MTX-IR

RA  
BUILD  
csDMARD-IR

RA  
BEACON  
TNFi-IR

RA  
BEYOND  
Long-term

# Relapse rates for patients on baricitinib 4 mg were lower than for patients on baricitinib 2 mg at Week 48



RA  
BEAM

MTX-IR

RA  
BUILD

csDMARD-IR

RA  
BEACON

TNFi-IR

RA  
BEYOND

Long-term

vs. continued on BARI 4 mg: \*\*\*p≤.001, \*\*p≤.01, \*p≤.05

<sup>a</sup>Relapse was defined as loss of step-down eligibility criteria, or CDAI>10 for DMARD-IR patients originating from RA-BUILD, RA-BEAM or RA-BEACON. <sup>b</sup>Relapse was defined as rescue.

CDAI=Clinical Disease Activity Index; LDA=Low Disease Activity; mITT=Modified Intention To Treat Population; N=Number of Patients in the Analysis Population; NRI=Non-responder Imputation.

Takeuchi T et al. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2019;78(2):171-178.



- **Dose flexibility**
- **Retention of remission/LDA after dose reduction in the majority of patients**

# Maintenance of efficacy and flexibility are core clinical attributes of baricitinib



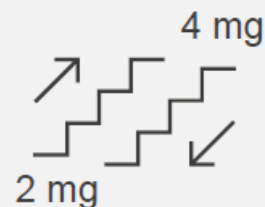
## Maintenance of efficacy

- Long-term maintenance of LDA, remission, and normalized physical function<sup>a,1</sup>
- Reduced structural progression<sup>2</sup>
- Low discontinuation rates<sup>3-6</sup>



## Monotherapy and combination option

- Can be used with or without MTX or other csDMARDs<sup>7,8</sup>



## Dose options

- Step-down with controlled disease<sup>9</sup>
- Step-up for helping to achieve treatment targets<sup>9</sup>
- Effective 2 mg option available if appropriate (older age, infection risk)<sup>7,8</sup>



## Treatment interruptions

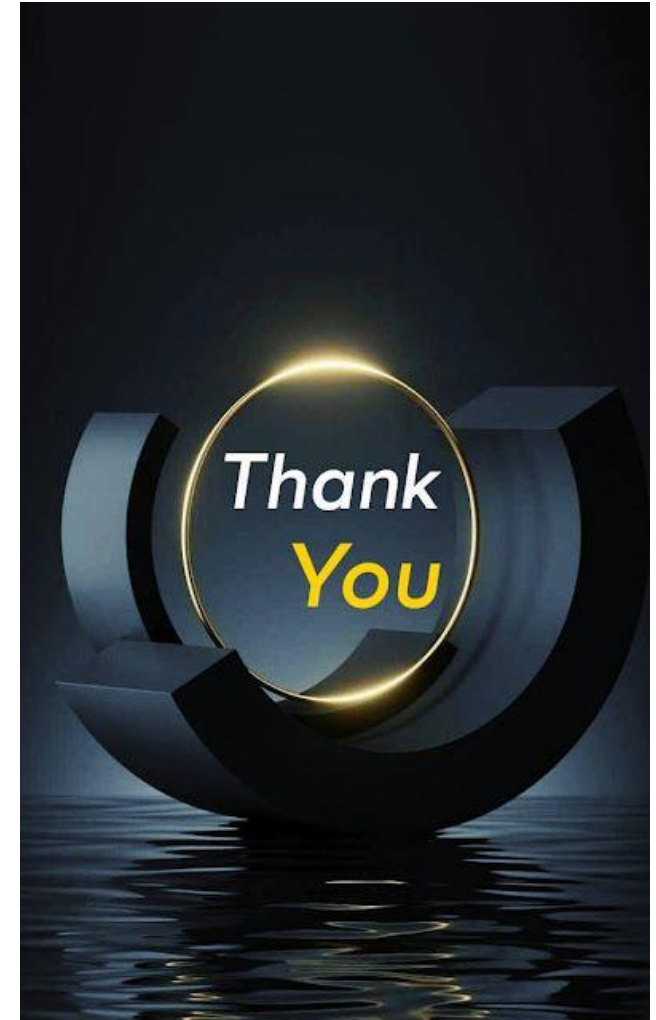
- No significant disease reactivation following brief treatment interruption<sup>b,10</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Results from 3 years of treatment with BARI 4 mg from RA-BEGIN/RA-BEAM and RA-BEYOND; <sup>b</sup>Interruptions in the Phase 3 program infrequent and generally of short duration ( $\leq 2$  weeks).

ADA=Adalimumab; BARI=Baricitinib; csDMARD=Conventional Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug; LDA=Low Disease Activity; MTX=Methotrexate.

1. Smolen JS, et al. *Rheumatology*. 2021;60(5):2256-2266. 2. Lopez-Romero P, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2022;81(5):622-631. 3. Alten R, et al. *RMD Open*. 2022;(Communicated). 4. Gilbert B, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2021;80(Suppl 1):577-578. 5. Barbulescu A, et al. *Rheumatology*. 2022;61(10):3952-3962. 6. Egeberg A, et al. *Semin Arthritis Rheum*. 2022;53:151979. 7. Olumiant USPI. Indianapolis, IN: Lilly USA; 2018. 8. Olumiant SmPC. Utrecht: Eli Lilly Nederland B.V.; 2019. 9. Takeuchi T, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2019;78(2):171-178. 10. Emery P, et al. *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2020;22(1):115.









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