Bimekizumab demonstrated sustained efficacy and safety across the full spectrum of axial spondyloarthritis: 3-year results from two phase 3 studies and their open-label extension

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Objective

To assess the 3-year efficacy and safety of bimekizumab (BKZ) across the full disease spectrum of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Introduction

- BKZ is a monoclonal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17F in addition to IL-17A.
- BKZ has demonstrated consistent and sustained efficacy to 2 years in patients with non-radiographic (nr-) and radiographic (r-)axSpA in the parallel phase 3 studies BE MOBILE 1 and 2, respectively, and their combined open-label extension (OLE), and to 5 years in the phase 2b BE AGILE study in patients with r-axSpA.[1–3]
- BKZ has also shown efficacy in the treatment of moderate-to-severe psoriasis, active psoriatic arthritis and hidradenitis suppurativa.[4–6]
- Here, we report 3-year efficacy and safety data from the BE MOBILE 1 and 2 studies, and their ongoing combined OLE.

Methods

- Study designs for BE MOBILE 1 (nr-axSpA; NCT03928704) and BE MOBILE 2 (r-axSpA; NCT03928743) have been reported previously.[7] All patients received subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W) from Week 16; eligible patients could enter the OLE (BE MOVING; NCT04436640) at Week 52.
- Efficacy outcomes are reported up to 3 years for the randomised set (164 weeks [112-week OLE]; N=586).
  - Binary outcomes were assessed using modified non-responder imputation (mNRI) or non-responder imputation (NRI; patients not enrolled in the OLE were imputed as non-responders), continuous outcomes using multiple imputation (MI) and additional analyses using observed case (OC).
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) outcomes were assessed in the subset of patients in the MRI sub-studies. At baseline and Weeks 52, 104 and 164, MRI inflammation was evaluated using Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada (SPARCC) sacroiliac joint (SIJ) score (nr-axSpA only) and Berlin spine score (r-axSpA only) in a single reading campaign, with readers blinded to timepoint.
  - MRI remission was defined as achievement of SPARCC SIJ <2 or Berlin spine score ≤2 in patients with SPARCC SIJ ≥2 or Berlin spine score >2 at baseline, respectively.
- Pooled safety data are reported to 3 years for all patients who received ≥1 BKZ dose (N=574).

Results

Patients

- Of 586 randomised patients (nr-axSpA: 254; r-axSpA: 332), 494 (84.3%) entered the OLE at Week 52, with 425/494 (86.0%) completing Week 164 (nr-axSpA: 175; r-axSpA: 250) by September 2024. 10 patients were ongoing in the OLE at the time of the data cut-off.
- Of those who discontinued the main study or the OLE prior to Week 164 (127/586; 21.7%), most withdrew consent (57/127; 44.9%) or had an adverse event (40/127; 31.5%). 24/586 patients (4.1%) completed the main study but did not enter the OLE.

Efficacy

- Efficacy was sustained from 2 years to 3 years across nr-axSpA and r-axSpA populations (**Table 1**; **Figures 1–3**).[1]
- Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) 40% responses (ASAS40) were maintained from Week 104 to Week 164 (**Figure 1**).
- At Week 164, Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) low disease activity (LDA; <2.1) was achieved by approximately 60% of patients with nr-axSpA and r-axSpA (**Figure 2**). ASDAS inactive disease (ID; <1.3) and ASAS partial remission were achieved by approximately a third of patients at Week 164 (**Table 1**; **Figure 2**).
- BKZ treatment led to sustained control of MRI inflammation from Week 104 to Week 164. At Week 164, 59.4% and 77.8% of patients achieved SPARCC SIJ and Berlin spine remission, respectively (**Figure 3**).

Safety

- Safety data to 3 years, including key safety topics of interest, are presented in **Table 2**.
- To Week 164, 90.4% (519/574) of patients with axSpA had ≥1 treatment-emergent adverse event (TEAE) on BKZ.
- Similar to Week 104, the most frequent TEAEs by preferred term (exposure-adjusted incidence rate per 100 patient-years [EAIR/100 PY]; MedDRA v19.0) to Week 164 were SARS-CoV-2 infection (COVID-19; 14.5), nasopharyngitis (9.9) and upper respiratory tract infection (5.8).
- No deaths or adjudicated major adverse cardiovascular events were reported.
- Of the 131 (22.8%; EAIR/100 PY: 9.4) patients who had fungal infections, 80 had *Candida* infections (13.9%; EAIR/100 PY: 5.3). Almost all *Candida* infections were mucocutaneous and mild/moderate, with one case each of severe oral and severe oesophageal infection; none were serious or systemic – 6 led to study discontinuation (oral [n=5] and oesophageal [n=1]).
- Hepatic events occurred in 74 patients (12.9%; EAIR/100 PY: 4.9); all were non-serious, and the majority were transient liver function test elevations or abnormalities – none led to permanent treatment discontinuation. There were no confirmed cases of Hy's law.
- No new safety signals were observed from Week 104 to Week 164; most EAIRs of TEAEs were similar between these timepoints.

Conclusions

Patients treated with bimekizumab demonstrated sustained clinical response and control of inflammation through 3 years across nr-axSpA and r-axSpA. No new safety signals were observed; bimekizumab was well-tolerated with a favourable safety profile. These results support bimekizumab as a durable long-term treatment option across the full disease spectrum of axSpA.

Summary

BKZ showed **sustained efficacy**, across the full disease spectrum of axSpA, **up to 3 years**. At Week 164:

- **~60%** of patients achieved ASDAS <2.1
- **>59%** and **>77%** of patients enrolled in the MRI sub-studies achieved SPARCC SIJ and Berlin spine remission, respectively[a]
- **No new safety signals** were detected

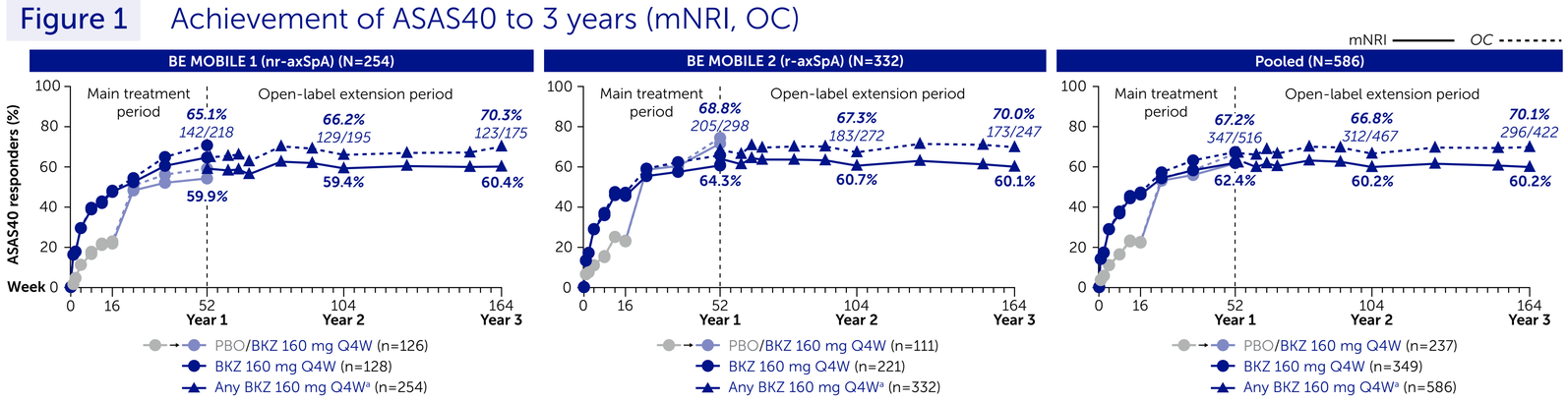
[a] Includes patients with recorded MRI inflammation data at baseline and Weeks 52, 104 and 164. MRI remission defined as MRI SIJ SPARCC <2 (nr-axSpA only) or Berlin MRI spine score ≤2 (r-axSpA only), in those with baseline MRI SIJ SPARCC score ≥2 or Berlin MRI spine score >2, respectively.

Table 1 Efficacy at 3 years (Week 164)

		BE MOBILE 1 (nr-axSpA) BKZ 160 mg Q4W[a] N=254	BE MOBILE 2 (r-axSpA) BKZ 160 mg Q4W[a] N=332
ASAS40	[NRI], n (%)	123 (48.4)	173 (52.1)
	[mNRI], %	60.4	60.1
	[OC], n/N (%)	123/175 (70.3)	173/247 (70.0)
ASAS partial remission	[NRI], n (%)	70 (27.6)	111 (33.4)
	[mNRI], %	32.4	36.5
ASDAS [MI]	Mean at baseline (SE)	3.7 (0.1)	3.7 (0.0)
	Mean CfB at Week 164 (SE)	−1.8 (0.1)	−1.8 (0.1)
ASDAS ID	[MI], %	28.6	31.0
BASDAI [MI]	Mean at baseline (SE)	6.8 (0.1)	6.5 (0.1)
	Mean CfB at Week 164 (SE)	−3.9 (0.2)	−3.9 (0.1)
Total resolution of enthesitis[b]	[NRI], n (%)	89 (47.8)[c]	112 (56.3)[d]
	[mNRI], %	53.0[c]	62.6[d]
MRI SPARCC SIJ[e] [OC]	Mean at baseline (SD)	9.5 (11.8)[f]	-
	Mean CfB at Week 164 (SD)	−7.5 (11.1)[f]	-
	Remission,[g] n (%)	19 (59.4)[h]	-
MRI Berlin spine[i] [OC]	Mean at baseline (SD)	-	3.7 (4.7)[j]
	Mean CfB at Week 164 (SD)	-	−2.8 (4.3)[j]
	Remission,[k] n (%)	-	28 (77.8)[l]

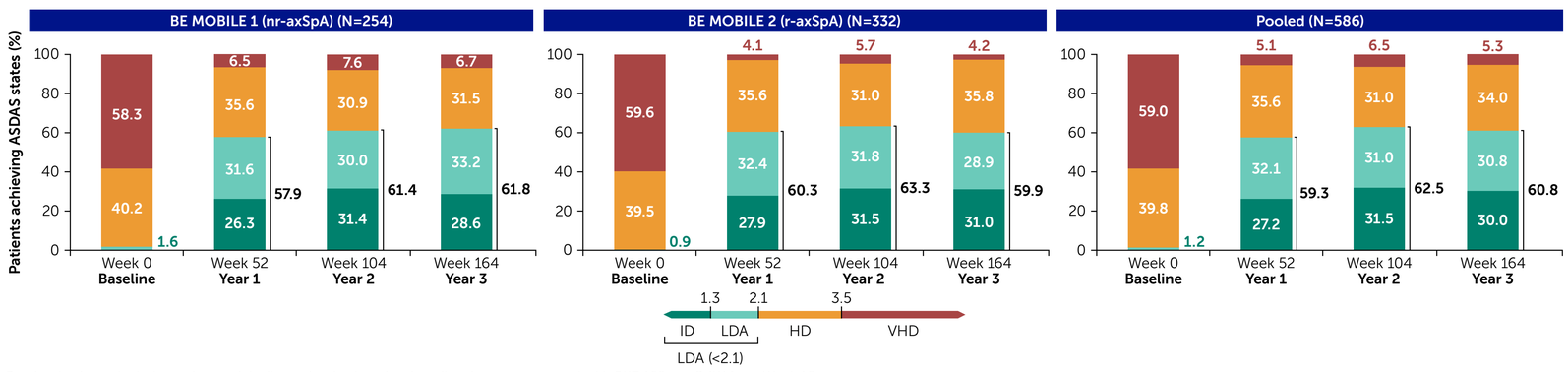
Randomised sets. mNRI considered all visits following discontinuation due to adverse events or lack of efficacy as non-response; all other missing data were imputed with MI and the response derived from the imputed values. **[a]** Includes patients originally randomised to placebo; all patients were treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W from Week 16; **[b]** MASES=0 in patients with MASES >0 at baseline; **[c]** n=186; **[d]** n=199; **[e]** In patients enrolled in the MRI sub-study with MRI assessments at each of the 4 timepoints (Week 0, 52, 104 and 164; nr-axSpA only); **[f]** n=51; **[g]** Defined as SPARCC SIJ score <2, in patients with SPARCC SIJ score ≥2 at baseline and MRI assessments at the remaining 3 timepoints (Week 52, 104 and 164) in the MRI sub-study (nr-axSpA only); **[h]** n=32; **[i]** In patients enrolled in the MRI sub-study with MRI assessment at each of the 4 timepoints (Week 0, 52, 104 and 164; r-axSpA only); **[j]** n=74; **[k]** Defined as Berlin spine ≤2, in patients with Berlin spine score >2 at baseline and MRI assessments at the remaining 3 timepoints (Week 52, 104 and 164) in the MRI sub-study (r-axSpA only); **[l]** n=36.

Figure 1 Achievement of ASAS40 to 3 years (mNRI, OC)



Randomised sets. mNRI considered all visits following discontinuation due to adverse events or lack of efficacy as non-response; all other missing data were imputed with MI and the response derived from the imputed values. Data labels at Week 52 are related to the Any BKZ group. **[a]** Includes patients originally randomised to placebo; all patients were treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W from Week 16.

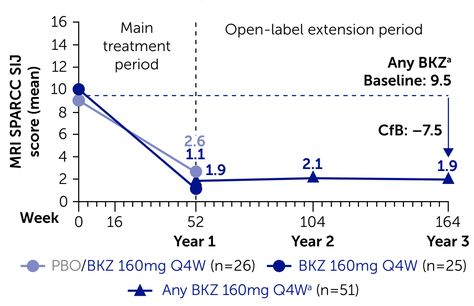
Figure 2 ASDAS states over time (MI)



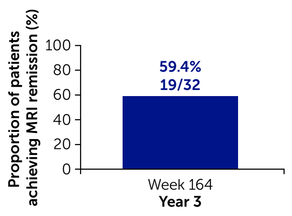
Randomised sets. Includes patients originally randomised to placebo; all patients were treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W from Week 16.

Figure 3 Absolute MRI inflammation scores and remission rates to 3 years (OC)

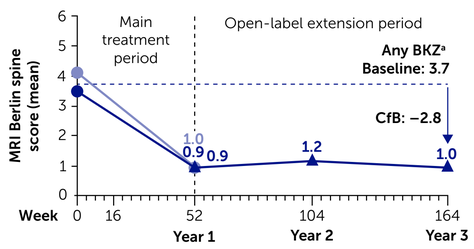
A) MRI SPARCC SIJ score (nr-axSpA only)



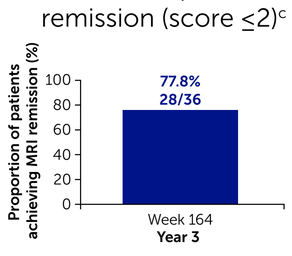
B) Proportion achieving MRI SPARCC SIJ remission (score <2)[b]



C) MRI Berlin spine score (r-axSpA only)



D) Proportion achieving MRI Berlin spine remission (score ≤2)[c]



Only study participants enrolled in the respective MRI sub-study with recorded data at each of the timepoints shown are included in this analysis. MRI remission is defined as having a SPARCC <2 or Berlin MRI spine score ≤2. **[a]** Includes patients originally randomised to placebo; all patients were treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W from Week 16; **[b]** SPARCC SIJ score <2, in patients with SPARCC SIJ score ≥2 at baseline and MRI assessments at the remaining 3 timepoints (Weeks 52, 104 and 164) in the MRI sub-study (nr-axSpA only); **[c]** Berlin spine ≤2, in patients with Berlin spine score >2 at baseline and MRI assessments at the remaining 3 timepoints (Weeks 52, 104 and 164) in the MRI sub-study (r-axSpA only).

Table 2 Safety overview to 3 years (Week 164)

n (%) [EAIR/100 PY]	BKZ 160 mg Q4W[a] (N=574; 1,664.7 PY)
Any TEAE	519 (90.4) [139.0]
Serious TEAEs	76 (13.2) [4.9]
Study discontinuation due to TEAEs	36 (6.3) [2.2]
Drug-related TEAEs[b]	290 (50.5) [28.7]
Severe TEAEs	47 (8.2) [3.0]
Death	0
Most frequent TEAEs[c]	
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection[d]	195 (34.0) [14.5]
Nasopharyngitis	139 (24.2) [9.9]
Upper respiratory tract infection	88 (15.3) [5.8]
Safety topics of interest	
Serious infections	20 (3.5) [1.2]
Opportunistic infections	14 (2.4) [0.9]
Active tuberculosis	0
Fungal infections	131 (22.8) [9.4]
Candida infections	80 (13.9) [5.3]
Oral candidiasis	66 (11.5) [4.3]
Fungal infections NEC	52 (9.1) [3.3]
Tinea infections	21 (3.7) [1.3]
Neutropenia[e]	10 (1.7) [0.6]
Serious hypersensitivity reactions	0
Administration/injection site reactions[f]	26 (4.5) [1.6]
Adjudicated suicidal ideation and behavior	2 (0.3) [0.1]
Adjudicated MACE	0
Elevated liver enzymes[g]	55 (9.6) [3.6]
>3X ULN ALT or AST	31 (5.4) [1.9]
Malignancies, excluding non melanoma skin cancer	8 (1.4) [0.5]
Adjudicated IBD (definite or probable)	9 (1.6) [0.5]
With prior history[h]	1 (12.5) [4.5]
Without prior history	8 (1.4) [0.5]
Uveitis[i]	25 (4.4) [1.5]
With prior history[j]	18 (18.9) [7.0]
Without prior history	7 (1.5) [0.5]

Safety set. Includes all data available up to the last Week 164 visit at the time of the data cut (September 2024). MedDRA (v19.0). **[a]** Includes patients originally randomised to placebo; all patients were treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W from Week 16; **[b]** Per study investigator assessment; **[c]** Reported by preferred term in order of decreasing frequency; **[d]** Specific terms for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infections were not available in the MedDRA v19.0; confirmed or suspected cases were identified using the preferred terms "Corona virus infection" and "Coronavirus test positive"; **[e]** Includes the preferred term neutropenia; **[f]** Includes the high-level terms "administration site reactions NEC" and "injection site reactions"; **[g]** Elevated liver enzymes included the following preferred terms reported as adverse events: increased/abnormal levels of ALT, AST, blood bilirubin, gamma-glutamyltransferase, hepatic enzyme, liver function test, total bile acids or transaminases; **[h]** 8/574 (1.4%) patients had a medical history of IBD at baseline; **[i]** Includes the preferred terms autoimmune uveitis, uveitis, iridocyclitis and iritis; **[j]** 95/574 (16.6%) patients had a medical history of uveitis at baseline.

ALT: alanine aminotransferase; **ASAS:** Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society; **ASAS40:** ASAS 40% response; **ASDAS:** Axial Spondyloarthritis Disease Activity Score; **AST:** aspartate aminotransferase; **axSpA:** axial spondyloarthritis; **BASDAI:** Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; **BKZ:** bimekizumab; **CfB:** change from baseline; **EAIR:** exposure-adjusted incidence rate; **HD:** high disease; **IBD:** inflammatory bowel disease; **ID:** inactive disease; **LD:** low disease; **LDA:** low disease activity; **MACE:** major adverse cardiovascular event; **MASES:** Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Score; **MI:** multiple imputation; **mNRI:** modified non-responder imputation; **MRI:** magnetic resonance imaging; **NEC:** not elsewhere classified; **nr-axSpA:** non-radiographic axSpA; **NRI:** non-responder imputation; **OC:** observed case; **PBO:** placebo; **PY:** patient-years; **Q4W:** every 4 weeks; **r-axSpA:** radiographic axSpA; **SD:** standard deviation; **SE:** standard error; **SIJ:** sacroiliac joint; **SPARCC:** Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada; **TEAE:** treatment-emergent adverse event; **ULN:** upper limit of normal; **VHD:** very high disease.

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Link expiration: 19 December 2025

Presented at the 34th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress 2025 | 17–20 September | Paris, France

Previously presented at EULAR 2025