

**TERIFLUNOMIDE IN EARLY STAGE MS: RESULTS FROM TOPIC**

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**Introduction** Teriflunomide is a once-daily oral immunomodulator approved for relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). Here we report the efficacy and safety outcomes from the TOPIC trial (NCT00622700).

**Methods** TOPIC was a double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study in patients with a first clinical episode consistent with MS. Patients were randomised to teriflunomide 14 mg, 7 mg or placebo. The primary endpoint was occurrence of a new clinical relapse, and the key secondary endpoint was occurrence of a new clinical relapse or MRI lesion. Safety and tolerability were also assessed.

**Results** Baseline characteristics were generally well balanced across groups. Teriflunomide 14mg significantly reduced the risk of a new clinical relapse by 42.6% ( $p=0.0087$ ) and the risk of a new clinical relapse or MRI lesion by 34.9% ( $p=0.0003$ ) versus placebo. Teriflunomide 14 mg significantly reduced total lesion volume increase from baseline at every time point and the number of gadolinium-enhancing T1 lesions per scan versus placebo. Safety observations were similar to those of TEMSO and TOWER.

**Conclusions** Teriflunomide demonstrated efficacy in patients with early stage MS. Together with outcomes from TEMSO and TOWER, these findings support the beneficial effect of teriflunomide across a broad range of patients and disease activity.