



Treatment of Plaque-Type Psoriasis with Oral CF101: Data from an Exploratory Phase 2 Clinical Trial

Michael David, MD,¹ Lehaviv Akerman, MD,¹ Michael Ziv, MD,² Miroslava Kadurina, MD,³ Dimitari Gospodinov, MD,⁴ Felix Pavlotsky, MD,⁵ Romyana Yankova, MD,⁶ Vassika Kouzeva, MD,⁷ Michal Ramon, MD,⁸ Oren Katz, MD,¹ Miriam Kerner, MD,² Amer Zoabi, MD,² Borislav Dimitrov, MD,³ Nikola Ivanov, MD,³ Maia Ralinovska, MD,⁴ Verka Pavlova-Petkova, MD,⁴ Henri Trau, MD,⁵ Gregory Kriger, MD,⁵ Fares Salameh, MD,⁵ Magdalena Gyurova, MD,⁶ Mariela Hitova, MD,⁷ Asya Dancheva-Atanasova, MD,⁷ Peterana Kaliasheva-Zaimova, MD,⁷ Andres Mercer, MD,⁸ Sari Fishman, Ph.D, Zivit Harpaz, BsC,⁹ Motti Farbstein, BsC,⁹ Sara Bar Yehuda, Ph.D,⁹ Michael H Silverman, MD,⁹ MH, William H Kerns, DVM,⁹ David R Bristol, Ph.D,⁹ Ilan Cohn, Ph.D, Pnina Fishman, Ph.D,⁹

¹ Department of Dermatology, Rabin Medical Center, Tel Aviv University, Petah-Tikva Israel;

² Department of Dermatology, Haemek Medical Center, Afula, Israel;

³ Military Medical Academy, Department of Dermatology, Venerology and Allergology, Sofia, Bulgaria; ⁴ Clinic of Dermatology and Venerology, University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment, Pleven, Bulgaria;

⁵ Department of Dermatology, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel;

⁶ Clinic of Dermatology and Venerology, University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment, Plovdiv, Bulgaria;

⁷ Regional out-patients clinic for Dermatology and Venerology diseases, Sofia, Bulgaria;

⁸ Department of Dermatology, Rambam Medical Center, Haifa, Israel;

⁹ Can-Fite BioPharma Ltd, Petach Tikva, Israel.

Background: CF101 is an orally bioavailable small molecule drug possessing potent anti-inflammatory effect, as proven in Phase 2 studies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and dry eye syndrome. CF101 binds with high selectivity to the Gi protein associated A₃ adenosine receptor (A₃AR), known to be over-expressed in tissues of patients with psoriasis.

Objectives: To evaluate the safety and efficacy of CF101 treatment in patients with moderate to severe plaque-type psoriasis.

Methods: The study included 76 patients who were treated with CF101 (1, 2, or 4 mg) or placebo administered orally twice daily for 12 weeks. Assessment of psoriasis area and severity index (PASI) score, physician's global assessment (PGA) score, and safety were performed at regular intervals throughout the study.

Results: In the 2 mg CF101-treated group, a progressive improvement in the mean change from baseline in the PASI score vs. placebo throughout the study period was observed, with a statistically significant difference on weeks 8 and 12 ($p = 0.047$; $p = 0.031$, respectively). In this group, 35.3% of the patients achieved PASI ≥ 50 response, and 23.5% of the patients achieved a PGA score of 0 or 1. CF101 was safe and well tolerated.

Conclusions: CF101 was found to be very safe and well tolerated and has demonstrated clear evidence of efficacy in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.