A trial to learn more about QGE031 in people with chronic hives

Thank you!

Thank you to the participants who took part in the clinical trial for the trial drug **QGE031**, also called ligelizumab. Every participant helped the researchers learn more about QGE031 for people with **chronic hives**. Chronic hives is also known as chronic spontaneous or induced urticaria.

Novartis sponsored this trial and believes it is important to share what was learned from the results of this trial with the participants and the public.

We hope this helps the participants understand their important role in medical research.

Trial information

Trial number: CQGE031C2203
Drug studied: QGE031
Sponsor: Novartis

What was the main purpose of this trial?

The main purpose of this trial was to help researchers learn more about the trial drug QGE031 in people with chronic hives.

Chronic hives is a raised, itchy skin rash that lasts more than 6 weeks. The rash may start as itchy skin patches that turn into raised bumps of different sizes and shapes. Chronic hives can be either:

- **Triggered chronic hives**, caused by something a person is exposed to, such as changes in temperature or doing physical activity
- **Spontaneous chronic hives**, which means doctors don't know the trigger that caused it

Researchers think that certain overactive cells in the immune system could play a role in chronic hives.

QGE031 is a trial drug designed to block a protein, called an antibody, from turning on certain overactive cells. These overactive cells may play a role in chronic hives. Researchers wanted to know if QGE031 could be used to treat people with chronic hives.

This trial had 2 parts:

- **Part 1** helped researchers choose which skin test to use in Part 2. When studying skin reactions like those in chronic hives, researchers may expose people to a small amount of a trigger. This is called a skin test.
- **Part 2** ended early. It would have helped researchers learn if QGE031 changed the skin reactions the participants with chronic hives had to the skin test chosen in Part 1.

The main questions this trial was designed to answer:

- Which skin test should be used for Part 2?
- Did QGE031 change the reactions to skin tests in participants with chronic hives?
- What medical problems did the participants have during this trial?
  Keeping track of the medical problems helped to learn about the safety of QGE031.

Main results: From Part 1, the researchers chose a skin test that used a trigger called ciprofloxacin for Part 2.

Because the trial ended early, there were too few participants in Part 2 to know if QGE031 changed reactions to the skin tests in participants with chronic hives.

The researchers concluded there were no new safety concerns for QGE031 for the participants in this trial.

How long was this trial?

The trial began in August 2020 and ended in July 2022. It was planned for the participants to be in the trial for about:

- 1 month during Part 1
- 8 months during Part 2

In April 2022, this trial ended early during Part 2 because the sponsor decided to stop all research on QGE031 in people with chronic hives. The decision was based on other trials which showed QGE031 did not lessen hives or itch more than an available treatment. The decision to stop was not related to the safety of the trial drug.

Who was in this trial?

Participants in this trial were either in overall good health (healthy) or had chronic hives. They were in Part 1 or Part 2:

Part 1

20 participants – 11 men and 9 women. They were 20 to 67 years old. Their average age was 31.

- 19 participants reported their race as White (Caucasian) and 1 participant reported their race as Asian.
- 10 participants were healthy and 10 participants had spontaneous chronic hives.

Participants with spontaneous chronic hives from Part 1 could also participate in Part 2.

Part 2

9 participants – 4 men and 5 women. They were 24 to 61 years old. Their average age was 40.

- All the participants reported their race as White (Caucasian).
- All participants in Part 2 had chronic hives – 5 had spontaneous chronic hives and 4 had triggered chronic hives.

This trial took place in Germany.

Visit **novctrd.com** for more information about:

- Who could and could not be in this trial
- Which medicines they could or could not take during the trial
- Reasons why the participants did not complete the trial

Use trial number **CQGE031C2203** to find the scientific summary.

What trial treatments did the participants receive?

None of the participants in **Part 1** received trial treatments.

In **Part 2**, participants were randomly assigned to one of these treatments:

- **QGE031** – 120 mg (milligrams) once a month for 4 months
- **Placebo** – looks like the trial drug but has no trial drug in it. Using a placebo helps researchers better understand the actual effects of a trial drug.

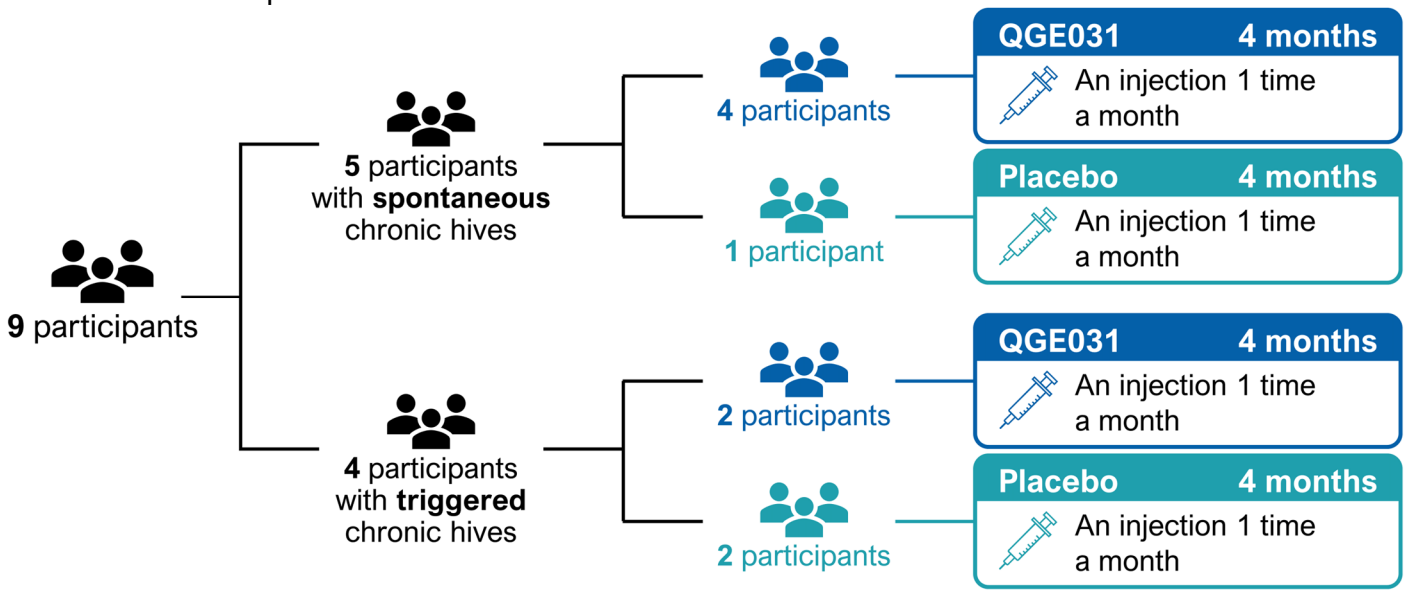
The participants received their assigned treatment as an injection under the skin.

A computer program was used to randomly assign the treatments. This helped make sure the researchers compared the results as fairly as possible.

During the trial, participants with spontaneous chronic hives could continue to take certain medicines for their hives.

The participants, sponsor staff, and trial staff did not know what treatment each participant received during Part 2 of the trial. Some trials are done this way because knowing what treatment participants receive can influence the results. Not knowing what treatment participants receive helps make sure the results are looked at fairly.

The graphic below shows how many participants were assigned to each treatment in **Part 2** and how they were planned to receive it. Because the trial ended early, not all participants received all planned doses of QGE031 or placebo.



What were the main results of this trial?

This is a summary of the overall results of this trial. Individual results from each participant may be different and are not included in this summary.

Researchers need many trials to learn if a drug or other treatment is safe and works well. Other trials may provide new information or different results.

Always talk to a doctor before making any changes to your health care.

Part 1: Which skin test should be used for Part 2?

In Part 1, the researchers chose a skin test that used a trigger called ciprofloxacin for Part 2. Ciprofloxacin caused a larger skin reaction in participants with chronic hives compared to healthy participants and had less unwanted effects than icatibant.

To answer this, the researchers compared the skin reactions of participants with spontaneous chronic hives and healthy participants for 2 triggers:

- **Ciprofloxacin**, an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections
- **Icatibant**, a medicine used to treat swelling in the airways

Researchers chose these 2 triggers because they are known to cause skin reactions.

A small amount of each trigger was tested in 20 participants. During the skin tests, researchers injected different amounts of both triggers into each participant's skin. Then, the researchers looked at 2 measures of the participants' skin reactions around the injection area:

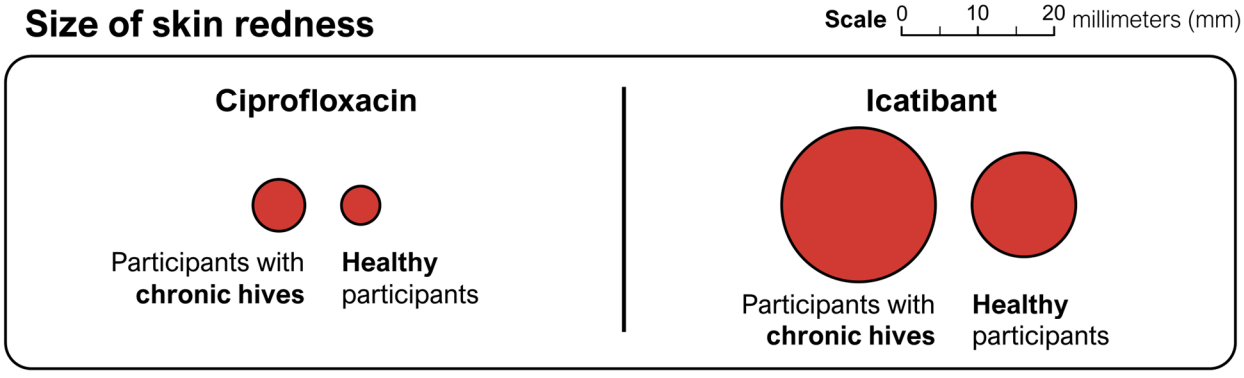
- The size of the raised bump that formed
- How much of the skin reddened

The participants with chronic hives had larger skin reactions to both triggers compared to the healthy participants. Some participants had other reactions to icatibant, such as pain and thickening and hardening of the skin where it was injected. Because of this, the researchers chose to use ciprofloxacin in Part 2.

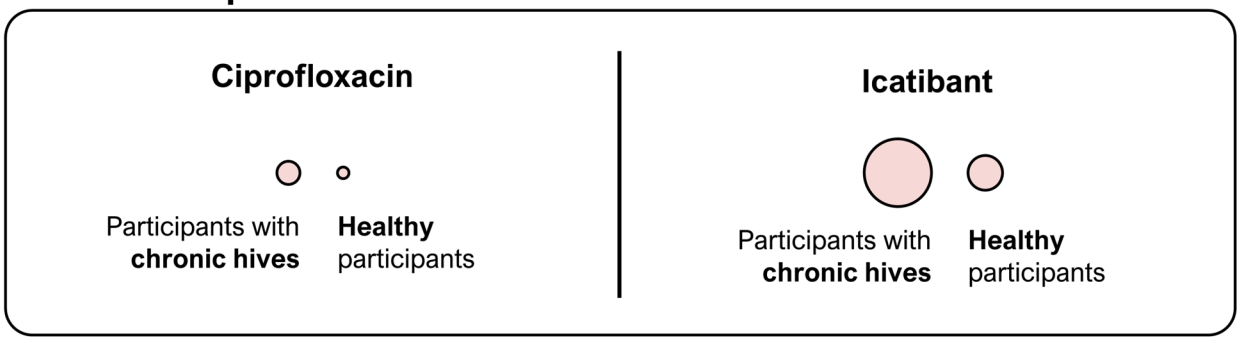
Participants' skin reactions to the middle dose of ciprofloxacin and icatibant

The visuals below compare the **actual** average size of the skin reactions for the participants with chronic hives and healthy participants.

Size of skin redness



Size of bump



Part 2: Did QGE031 change the reactions to skin tests in participants with chronic hives?

Because this trial ended early, there were too few participants to know if QGE031 changed the reactions to the skin tests in participants with chronic hives in Part 2.

The researchers planned to look at the skin reactions of participants with either spontaneous or triggered chronic hives. These participants had 2 types of skin tests:

- **Ciprofloxacin skin test**, which was the skin test chosen in Part 1
- **Autologous serum skin test (ASST)**, which is a test that injects a small amount of a person's own blood into their skin. This can find out if a person's own immune system is causing their chronic hives.

Too few participants completed Part 2 for the researchers to find out if QGE031 changed reactions to skin tests.

What other results were learned during Part 2?

During Part 2, the researchers also looked at:

- The participants' answers to questions about their hives symptoms and effects on their daily lives
- The coldest temperature certain participants with triggered chronic hives could be exposed to before having a skin reaction
- How long certain participants with triggered chronic hives could ride a stationary bike before having a skin reaction

Because the trial ended early, there were too few participants in Part 2 to know if QGE031 changed these measures in participants with chronic hives.

What medical problems did the participants have during this trial?

Medical problems that happen during trials are called "adverse events".

Trial doctors keep track of **all** adverse events that happen in trials, even if they think the adverse events are **not** related to the trial treatments.

Many trials are needed to know if a drug or treatment causes an adverse event.

An adverse event is:

- Any **sign or symptom** that the participants have during a trial.
- Considered **serious** when it is life-threatening, causes lasting problems, the participant needs hospital care, or results in death

Adverse events **may** or **may not** be caused by treatments in the trial.

The adverse events in this section include any that happened:

- Part 1: up to 30 days after the skin tests.
- Part 2: during treatment and up to 30 days after completing treatment.

Part 1: Less than half of the participants (5 out of 20) had adverse events. None of the adverse events were considered serious. The most common adverse event was thickening and hardening of the skin at the site of the skin test.

Part 2: Most of the participants (7 out of 9) had adverse events. None of the participants had adverse events that were considered serious. The most common type of adverse event was COVID-19.

No participants left the trial due adverse events. The researchers concluded there were no new safety concerns for QGE031 for the participants in this trial.

How many participants had adverse events?

Part 1: the table below shows the number of participants who had adverse events.

	Healthy participants 10 participants	**Participants with spontaneous chronic hives** 10 participants
Participants who had at least 1 adverse event	**30%** 3 of 10	**20%** 2 of 10
Participants who had at least 1 serious adverse event	**0%** 0 of 10	**0%** 0 of 10
Participants who stopped receiving the trial drug due to an adverse event	**0%** 0 of 10	**0%** 0 of 10

Part 2: the table below shows the number of participants who had adverse events.

	Spontaneous chronic hives		**Triggered** chronic hives	
	QGE031 4 participants	**Placebo** 1 participants	**QGE031** 2 participants	**Placebo** 2 participants
Participants who had at least 1 adverse event	**100%** 4 of 4	**100%** 1 of 1	**100%** 2 of 2	**0%** 0 of 2
Participants who had at least 1 serious adverse event	**0%** 0 of 4	**0%** 0 of 1	**0%** 0 of 2	**0%** 0 of 2
Participants who stopped receiving the trial drug due to an adverse event	**0%** 0 of 4	**0%** 0 of 1	**0%** 0 of 2	**0%** 0 of 2

What serious adverse events did the participants have?

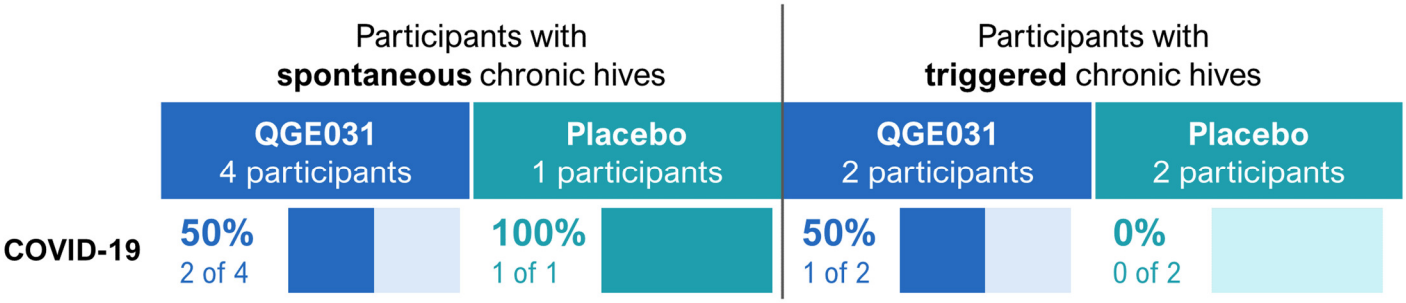
None of the participants in Part 1 or Part 2 had serious adverse events, including no deaths.

What other adverse events did the participants have during Part 1?

The table below shows the most common adverse event that happened in **2 or more participants**. Additional adverse events happened in fewer participants.

What other adverse events did the participants have during Part 2?

The table below shows the most common adverse event that happened in **2 or more participants**. Additional adverse events happened in fewer participants.



What was learned from this trial?

This trial was designed to help researchers learn more about the trial drug QGE031 in people with chronic hives. Based on results from Part 1, researchers chose a skin test that used a trigger called ciprofloxacin for Part 2.

The trial ended early, so Part 2 was not completed. There were too few participants in Part 2 to know if QGE031 changed reactions to the skin tests or other measures of hives symptoms. The researchers concluded there were no new safety concerns for QGE031 in this trial.

These are the results of a single trial. Other trials may have different results. This was one of many trials a drug goes through. This type of trial was designed to help researchers learn about the safety and effects of a trial drug in a small number of participants.

QGE031 is no longer being studied as a possible treatment for chronic hives. If more trials are planned for QGE031 or chronic hives, they will appear on the public websites below.

Where can I learn more about this and future trials?

For more information about this trial go to any of the following websites:

- **novctrd.com** – search using the study number **CQGE031C2203**
- **clinicaltrials.gov** – search using the number **NCT04513548**

If more trials are planned, they will appear on the public websites above. When there, search for **QGE031**, **ligelizumab**, **chronic spontaneous urticaria**, or **chronic inducible urticaria**.

Full trial title:

A two-part exploratory study combining a pilot study in healthy subjects and chronic spontaneous urticaria patients (Part 1) and a randomized, subject, investigator and sponsor-blinded, placebo controlled, study (Part 2) to assess the MechAniSm of acTion of ligElizumab (QGE031) in patients with chronic uRticaria (MASTER)

? If you participated in the trial and have **questions** about the results, please speak with the trial doctors or staff at your trial site.

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