

# Bimekizumab impact on draining tunnels: A dynamic assessment in patients with moderate to severe HS using pooled Week 48 results from BE HEARD I&II

Thrasivoulos Tzelloos,<sup>1,2</sup> Jennifer Hsiao,<sup>3</sup> Martina L. Porter,<sup>4</sup> Farida Benhadou,<sup>2,5</sup> Falk G. Bechara,<sup>2,6,7</sup> Melinda Goodernam,<sup>8,9</sup> Hidetoshi Takahashi,<sup>10</sup> Christos C. Zouboulis,<sup>2,11</sup> Ingrid Pansar,<sup>12</sup> Robert Rollerl,<sup>13</sup> Nicola Tilt,<sup>14</sup> Christopher J. Sayed<sup>2,15</sup>

## Objective

To assess the effect of bimekizumab (BKZ) on draining tunnels (DTs) over 48 weeks in adult patients with moderate to severe hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) from the phase 3 BE HEARD I&II studies.

## Introduction

- HS is a recurrent, inflammatory skin disease characterised by painful lesions in the folds of the skin and deep, dermal abscesses that join to form DTs, also known as fistulas and sinus tracts.<sup>1-4</sup>
- DTs may be a large contributor to the significant impact of HS on a patient's quality of life.<sup>3,5</sup>
- BKZ is a humanised IgG1 monoclonal antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17F in addition to IL-17A, which are both abundant in lesional skin.<sup>6,7</sup>
- Here, we dynamically assess the effect of BKZ on DT outcomes over 48 weeks in BE HEARD I&II.<sup>8</sup>

## Methods

- Pooled data from the randomised, double-blind, placebo (PBO)-controlled, multicentre BE HEARD I&II trials included an initial (Week 0–16) and maintenance (Week 16–48) treatment period (Figure 1).
- Here, we report the proportions of patients with ≥1 and ≥3 DTs at baseline achieving 0, 1–2, 3–5 or >5 DTs to Week 48.
- Data are reported as observed case (OC).

## Results

- At baseline, 1,014 patients were randomised (Figure 1).
- Baseline demographics were comparable across treatment arms, although higher proportions of Hurley Stage III disease were seen in patients with ≥3 DTs at baseline vs those with ≥1 DT at baseline (Table 1).
- At Week 16, a higher proportion of patients with ≥1 DT at baseline receiving BKZ achieved 0 DTs vs the PBO group (Figure 2).
- At Week 48, the proportion of patients with ≥1 DT at baseline receiving continuous BKZ that achieved 0 DTs notably increased; a similar proportion was seen in patients who switched from PBO to BKZ at Week 16 (Figure 2).
- Patients with ≥3 DTs at baseline showed similar results. At Week 16, a higher proportion of patients receiving BKZ had no DTs vs the PBO group. By Week 48, the proportions of patients receiving continuous BKZ that had no DTs notably increased (Figure 3).
- Among the patients with ≥3 DTs at baseline, similar proportions of patients receiving continuous BKZ and PBO to BKZ Q2W switchers had no DTs at Week 48. There was a more favourable increase from Week 16 to Week 48 compared with the PBO to BKZ Q2W switchers with ≥1 DT at baseline (Figures 2 and 3).
- The proportion of patients with >5 DTs decreased from baseline to Week 48, regardless of treatment arm, in both patients with ≥1 and ≥3 DTs at baseline (Figures 2 and 3).

## Conclusions

Patients treated with bimekizumab demonstrated clinically meaningful reductions in DT count to 48 weeks.

From baseline to Week 48, the proportion of patients with no DTs increased, while the proportion of patients with >5 DTs decreased.

## Summary

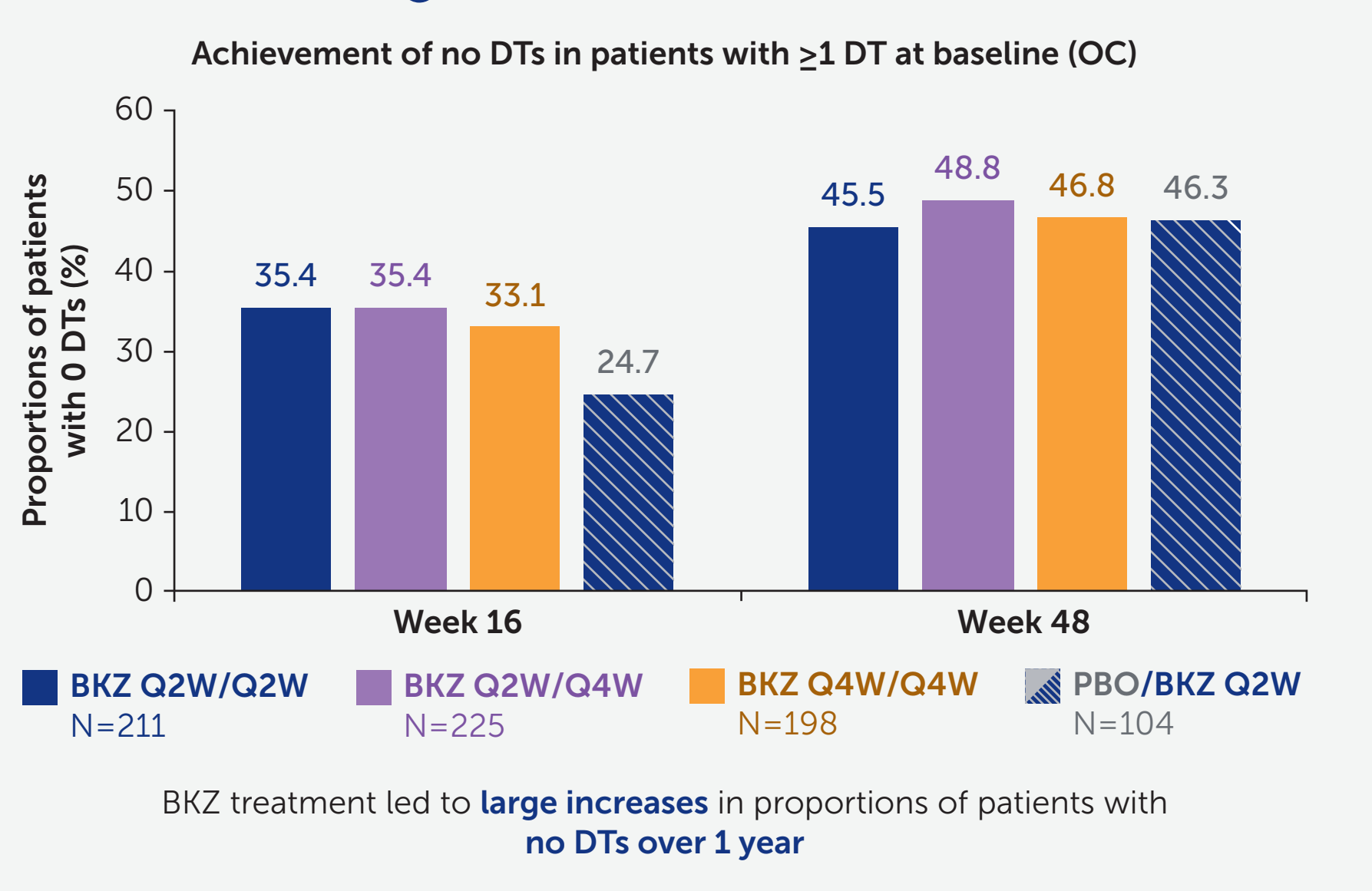


Figure 1 Study design

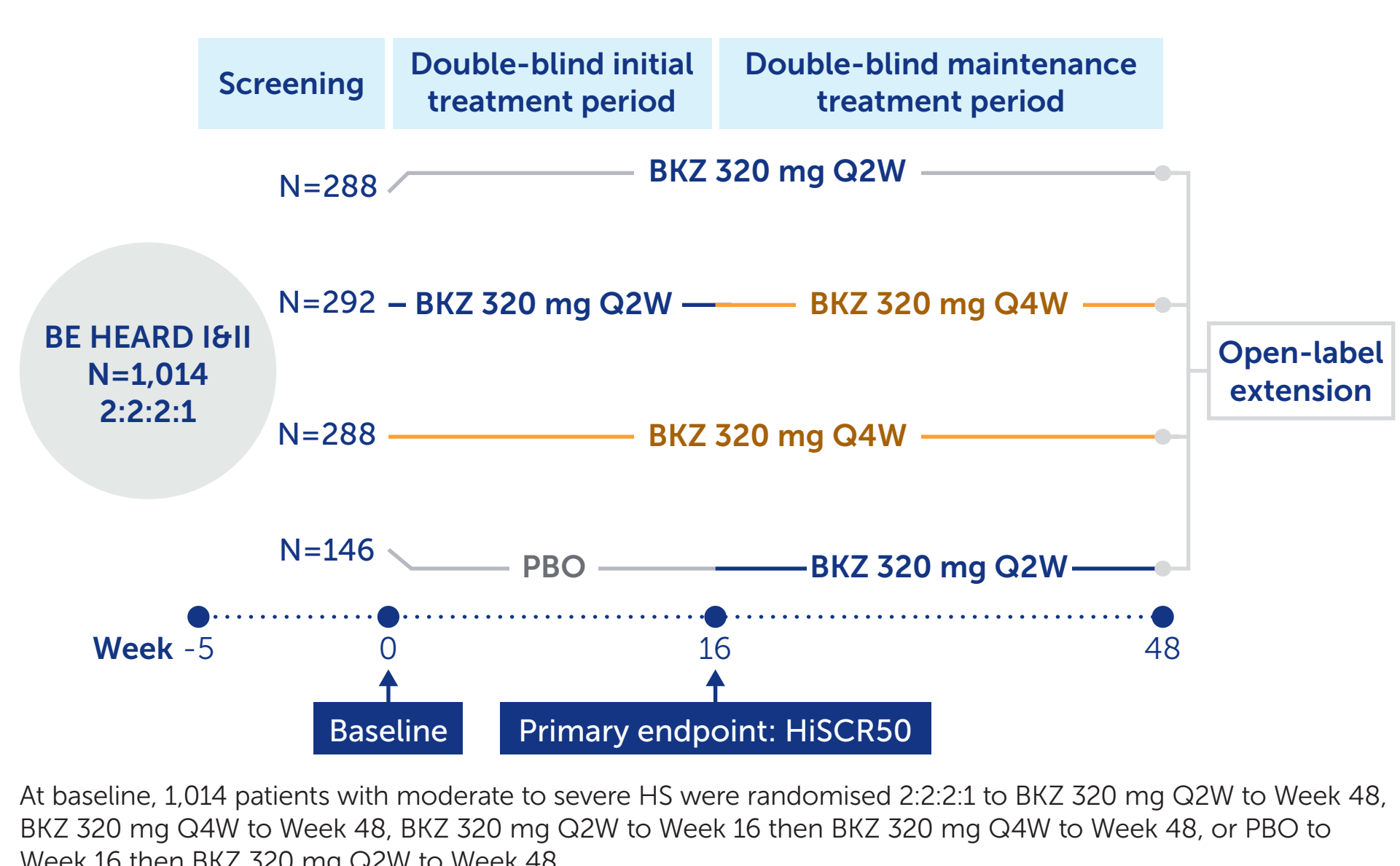


Table 1 Baseline characteristics

	Patients with ≥1 DT at baseline				Patients with ≥3 DTs at baseline			
	BKZ Q2W/Q2W N=211	BKZ Q2W/Q4W N=225	BKZ Q4W/Q4W N=198	PBO/BKZ Q2W N=104	BKZ Q2W/Q2W N=132	BKZ Q2W/Q4W N=148	BKZ Q4W/Q4W N=124	PBO/BKZ Q2W N=66
Age (years), mean ± SD	37.5 ± 12.1	37.4 ± 12.8	36.8 ± 11.9	36.7 ± 12.9	38.6 ± 12.0	37.4 ± 13.1	36.1 ± 11.5	36.3 ± 13.1
Sex, female, n (%)	98 (46.4)	128 (56.9)	105 (53.0)	50 (48.1)	59 (44.7)	83 (56.1)	64 (51.6)	28 (42.4)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> , mean ± SD	32.6 ± 8.4	32.4 ± 7.7	33.4 ± 7.7	32.8 ± 8.2	32.4 ± 8.9	32.3 ± 8.1	33.6 ± 7.6	31.7 ± 8.1
Duration of HS (years), mean ± SD	7.5 ± 7.2	8.2 ± 7.1	7.1 ± 6.9	9.0 ± 9.4	7.7 ± 7.2	8.7 ± 7.4	6.5 ± 6.4	8.7 ± 9.2
Baseline AN count, mean ± SD	14.7 ± 10.6	18.0 ± 17.8	18.1 ± 15.1	14.6 ± 10.1	16.4 ± 11.3	21.5 ± 20.3	21.1 ± 15.7	16.5 ± 11.5
Baseline DT count, mean ± SD	5.2 ± 4.4	4.9 ± 4.5	4.8 ± 4.2	4.7 ± 3.8	7.5 ± 4.2	6.7 ± 4.6	6.8 ± 4.1	6.6 ± 3.5
Hurley stage, n (%)								
II	103 (48.8)	101 (44.9)	91 (46.0)	49 (47.1)	47 (35.6)	48 (32.4)	36 (29.0)	24 (36.4)
III	108 (51.2)	124 (55.1)	107 (54.0)	55 (52.9)	85 (64.4)	100 (67.6)	88 (71.0)	42 (63.6)
DLQI total score, mean ± SD	11.7 ± 6.4	11.0 ± 6.7	11.3 ± 7.2	13.2 (7.2)	12.6 ± 6.6	11.3 ± 6.3	12.0 ± 7.3	13.6 ± 7.1
Prior biologic use, <sup>a</sup> n (%)	45 (21.3)	49 (21.8)	36 (18.2)	20 (19.2)	39 (29.5)	36 (24.3)	25 (20.2)	16 (24.2)
Baseline antibiotic use, n (%)	21 (10.0)	20 (8.9)	12 (6.1)	8 (7.7)	13 (9.8)	14 (9.5)	10 (8.1)	5 (7.6)

Randomised pooled set; baseline characteristics evaluated at Week 0. [a] Patients received prior biologic therapy for any indication.

Figure 2 Baseline DT count ≥1: DT categories to Week 48 (OC)

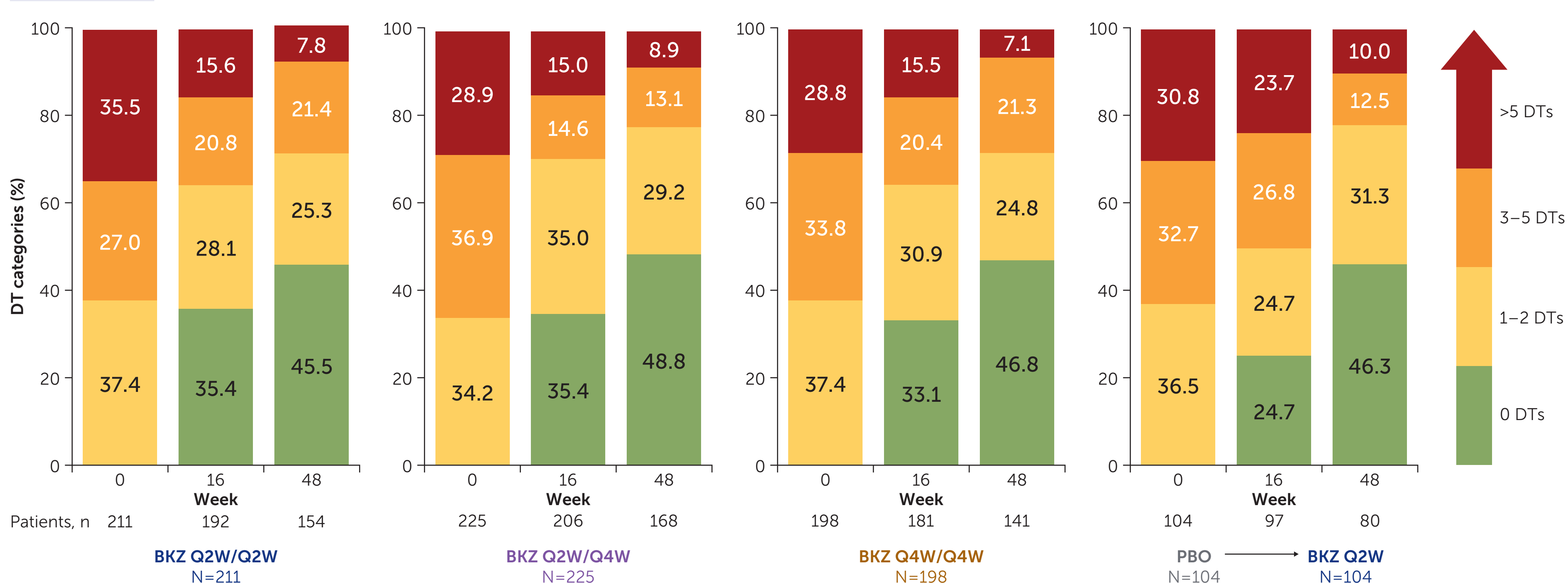
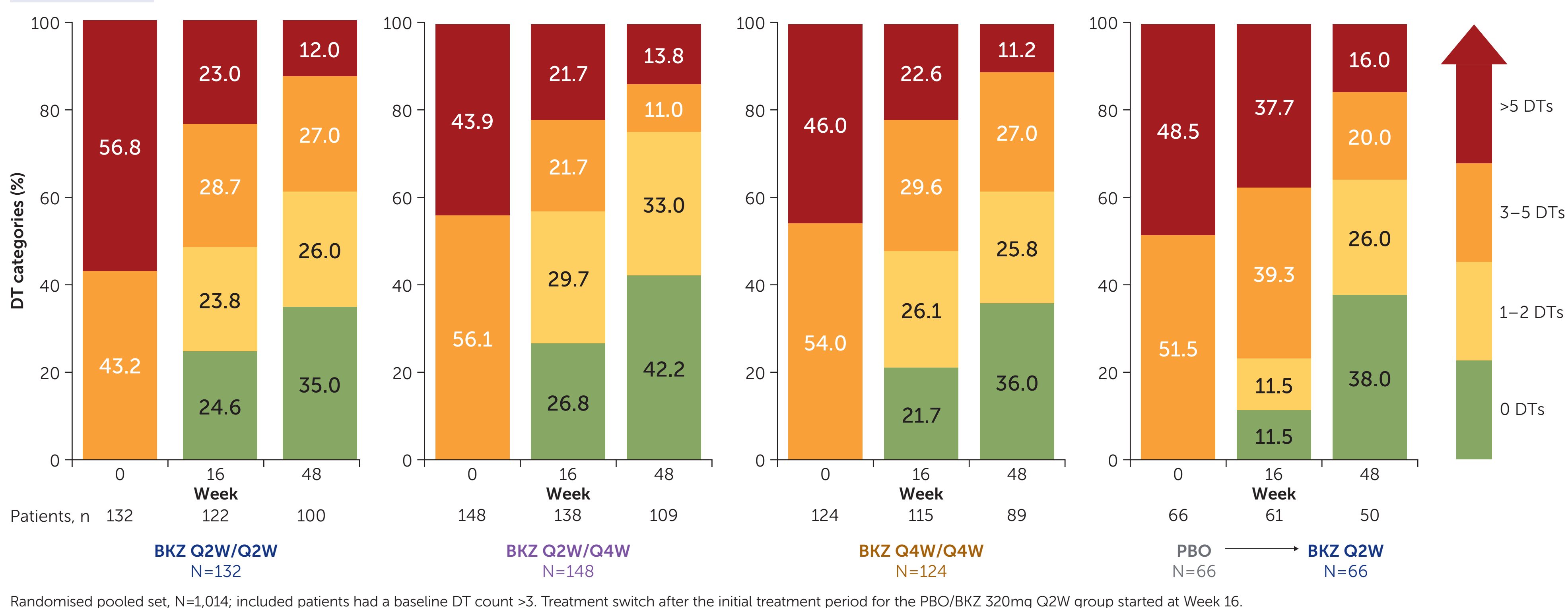


Figure 3 Baseline DT count ≥3: DT categories to Week 48 (OC)



AN: abscess and inflammatory nodule; BKZ: bimekizumab; BMI: body mass index; DLQI: Dermatology Life Quality Index; DT: draining tunnel; HRQoL: health-related quality of life; HISCR: HS Clinical Response; HISCR50: 50% reduction in the total abscess and inflammatory nodule count with no increase from baseline in abscess or draining tunnel count; HS: hidradenitis suppurativa; IL: interleukin; OC: observed case; PBO: placebo; Q2W: every 2 weeks; Q4W: every 4 weeks; SD: standard deviation.

**Institutions:** <sup>1</sup>Department of Dermatology, Nordland Hospital Trust, Bodø, Norway; <sup>2</sup>European Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation (EHSF), Dessau, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Department of Dermatology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA; <sup>4</sup>Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Department of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, United States; <sup>5</sup>Department of Dermatology, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Bruxelles (HUB), Université libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium; <sup>6</sup>Department of Dermatology, Venereology, and Allergology, St. Josef-Hospital, Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany; <sup>7</sup>ICH – International Center for Hidradenitis Suppurativa / Acne Inversa, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany; <sup>8</sup>SKIN Centre for Dermatology, Probita Medical Research, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada; <sup>9</sup>Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada; <sup>10</sup>Takagi Dermatological Clinic, Obihiro, Hokkaido, Japan; <sup>11</sup>Departments of Dermatology, Venereology, Allergology and Immunology, Staatliches Klinikum Dessau, Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane and Faculty of Health Sciences Brandenburg, Dessau, Germany; <sup>12</sup>UCB, Brussels, Belgium; <sup>13</sup>UCB, Morrisville, North Carolina, USA; <sup>14</sup>UCB, Slough, UK; <sup>15</sup>Department of Dermatology, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA.

**References:** Zouboulis CC et al. *Dermatology* 2015;231:184–90; Zouboulis CC et al. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venerol* 2015;29:619–44; Navarzhina K et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2021;147:2213–24; Zouboulis CC et al. *Exp Dermatol* 2020;29:1154–70; Chernyshov PV et al. *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 2021;18:6131; Adams R et al. *Front Immunol* 2020;11:1894; Krueger JG et al. *Br J Dermatol* 2024;190:149–52; Kimball AB et al. *Lancet* 2024;403:2504–19 (NCT04242446, NCT04242498). **Author Contributions:** Substantial contributions to study conception/design, or acquisition/analysis/interpretation of data: TT, JH, MLP, FB, FGB, MG, HT, CCZ, IP, RR, NT, CJS; Drafting of the publication, or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content: TT, JH, MLP, FB, FGB, MG, HT, CCZ, IP, RR, NT, CJS; Final approval of the publication: TT, JH, MLP, FB, FGB, MG, HT, CCZ, IP, RR, NT, CJS. **Author Disclosures:** TT: Consultancy/advisory boards/speaker fees from AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis and UCB. MLP: Consultant and investigator for AbbVie, Anaptys Bio, Arista, Avalo Therapeutics, Eli Lilly and Company and Incyte, Janssen, MoonLake Immunotherapeutics, Novartis, Pfizer, Prometheus, Sanofi, SonomaBio and UCB; consultant for Almirall, FIDE and Trifecta Clinical; investigator for Bayer, Bristol Myers Squibb, OASIS Pharmaceuticals, received royalties from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. FB: Advisory committee for AbbVie, Janssen, LEO Pharma, Novartis and UCB. FGB: Received honoraria for participation in advisory boards, in clinical trials and/or as a speaker from AbbVie, Acelyrin, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celltrion, Dr. Wolff, Incyte Corporation, Janssen Cilag, Merck, Mölnlycke, MoonLake Immunotherapeutics, Novartis, Sanofi, Stalio and UCB. MG: Investigator, speaker, consultant or advisory board member for AbbVie, Akros, Amgen, AnaptysBio, Arcutis, Arista, Astan, Bausch Health, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Dermavant, Dermira, Eli Lilly and Company and Company, Galderma, GSK, Incyte, Janssen, Kyowa Kirin, MedImmune, Meiji, Merck, MoonLake Immunotherapeutics, Nimmus, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Reistone, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, Takeda, Tarsus, UCB, Union and Ventyx. HT: Served as paid speaker sponsored by AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly and Company, Janssen, Kaken Pharmaceutical, Kyowa Kirin, LEO Pharma, Maruho, Mitsubishi-Tanabe Pharmaceutical, Novartis, Sanofi, Sato Pharmaceutical, Torii Pharmaceutical and UCB. CCZ: Received institution grants as a clinical and research investigator for AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, EADV, European Union, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, GSK, InfaRx, MSD, Novartis, Retaxera and UCB; received honoraria as a consultant for Almirall, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly and Company, Idorsia, Incyte, L'Oréal, MSD, NAOS-BIODERMA, Novartis, Pfizer, PPM, Sanofi and UCB; received lecture fees from Almirall, Amgen, Biogen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB; President of the EHSF e.V. and the Deutsches Register Morbus Adamantiades-Behçet e.V., coordinator of the ALLOCATE Skin group of the ERN Skin, chair of the ARHS Task Force group of the EADV and board member of the International Society for Behçet's Disease; Editor of the EADV News; co-copyright holder of IHS4 on behalf of the EHSF e.V. IP, RR, NT: Employees and shareholders of UCB. CJS: Investigator for AbbVie, AstraZeneca, ChemoCentryx, Incyte, InfaRx, Novartis and UCB; consultancy fees from AbbVie, Alumis, AstraZeneca, InfaRx, Incyte, Logical Images, Sandoz, Sanofi, Sonoma Biotherapeutics and UCB; speaker for AbbVie and Novartis. **Acknowledgements:** These studies were funded by UCB. We thank the patients and their caregivers in addition to the investigators and their teams who contributed to these studies. The authors acknowledge Susanne Wiegatz, MSc, UCB, Monheim am Rhein, Germany for publication coordination, Isabel Merrien, PgDip, Costello Medical, London, England for medical writing and editorial assistance and the Costello Medical Creative team for graphic design assistance. All costs associated with development of this poster were funded by UCB.



To receive a copy of this poster, scan the QR code or visit: [ucbposters.com/EADV2024](https://ucbposters.com/EADV2024)  
Poster ID: P0138  
Link expiration: 27 December 2024