Belimumab Shows Efficacy in Second Lupus Trial

BY MITCHEL L. ZOLER

Philadelphia — Two studies about belimumab show promise in lupus treatment.

The lupus community has waited decades for one positive phase III trial of an investigational drug developed for lupus. Now we have two.

The primary outcome benefit from belimumab treatment was “solid,” said Dr. Joan T. Merrill, a specialist in treating systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) who was a co-investigator on BLISS-76.

“Lupus is immune to infestation, and outbreaks are a growing problem in many European countries, he added.

Dr. Chosidow received a research grant from Johnson & Johnson, which sponsored the belimumab study.