

## A rare yet early-stage win for Galapagos and Gilead in scleroderma



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Of all the rheumatic disorders, diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc) has one of the worst prognoses, and unhappily for sufferers options are limited. Immunosuppressants are used but more effective agents are desperately needed; Corbus's [lenabasum crashed out in phase III](#) only this week. Thus [a hit in a phase IIa trial](#) with Gilead and Galapagos's autotaxin inhibitor ziritaxestat is welcome, if early-stage, progress. The primary endpoint, change on a score that measures skin thickness, mRSS, was hit with statistical significance, although only just ( $p=0.0411$ ); with only 33 patients enrolled, this hint of efficacy still needs confirming in larger studies. Two serious adverse events in the ziritaxestat arm also mute enthusiasm, though the patients recovered and chose to participate in a long-term extension trial, along with the vast majority of other enrollees. A quick scan of other projects being trialled yields a short list, and the fact that much work is government-funded speaks to the challenge here. [Seattle Genetics' Adcetris](#), [Glaxosmithkline's Benlysta](#), and Roche's Rituxan and [Esbriet](#) are some of the more novel agents that are being investigated by academics. Trials funded purely by industry are much rarer.

### Searching for solutions for diffuse scleroderma - active industry sponsored trials

Product	Mechanism	Company	NCT ID
<b>Phase III</b>			
Lenabasum (failed)	CB2 agonist	Corbus Pharmaceuticals	<a href="#">NCT03398837</a>
<b>Phase II/I</b>			
AVID200	TGF beta inhibitor	Forbius	<a href="#">NCT03831438</a>
Tepezza	IGF-1R antibody	Horizon Therapeutics	<a href="#">NCT04478994</a>
Vasculan	PG receptor agonist; TXA2 receptor antagonist	Cumberland Pharmaceuticals	<a href="#">NCT02682511</a>
KD025	ROCK2 inhibitor	Kadmon	<a href="#">NCT03919799</a>
Ziritaxestat (GLPG-1690)	Autotaxin inhibitor	Galapagos	<a href="#">NCT03976648</a>
Privigen + Hizentra	Immunoglobulin	CSL	<a href="#">NCT04137224</a>
Privigen	Immunoglobulin	CSL	<a href="#">NCT04138485</a>
EHP-101	CB2 agonist; PPAR-gamma agonist	Emerald Health Sciences	<a href="#">NCT04166552</a>
MT-7117 (dersimelagon)	Melanocortin type 1 receptor agonist	Mitsubishi Chemical	<a href="#">NCT04440592</a>

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