

SIMVASTATIN IN THE PREVENTION OF RECURRENT PANCREATITIS: THE SIMBA TRIAL

Laura Sempere Robles

UEG Week Berlin 2025

Presentation

Pancreas

October 6, 2025

The SIMBA trial found that simvastatin 40 mg daily did not reduce recurrent acute pancreatitis or acute-on-chronic pancreatitis flares compared to placebo in a randomized controlled trial of 83 patients.

KEY POINTS

- In intention-to-treat analysis, recurrence occurred in 34.1% of the simvastatin group versus 30.8% of the placebo group ($p=0.747$), with no significant difference in time to recurrence ($p=0.543$).
- Exploratory analysis showed a statistically significant increase in new onset diabetes in the simvastatin group compared to placebo.
- The trial was stopped early at interim analysis with 83 of the planned 144 patients enrolled, as the probability of achieving a statistically significant difference with full enrollment was less than 1.6%.
- Patients had non-biliary recurrent acute pancreatitis or acute flares of chronic pancreatitis with at least two episodes in the prior 12 months, and hypertriglyceridemia was an exclusion criterion.
- The study had high dropout rates (14 discontinued in simvastatin group, 9 in placebo group) and was influenced by slow recruitment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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