

Moderator: What level of improvement, if any, can be expected when switching to CellCept from Imuran?

Dr. Esdaile: Cellcept is the company name for a drug called mycophenolate mofetil (MMF). What the literature suggested is that MMF is extremely good in lupus nephritis. As lupus nephritis is seen as the prototype of lupus, in that if you can control lupus nephritis, you are going to do well controlling many types of lupus. It is being used more widely than in just lupus nephritis. In lupus nephritis it appears to be as effective as some of the strongest drugs we use and we are rather excited about it. It has been used in transplantation patients for many years. There is a lot of experience with it, especially amongst transplant specialists, kidney specialists and so on. I think we feel pretty comfortable using the drug.