

**Submitted by:** Lu Zhang

**Title:** Real-world data of siltuximab for Chinese patients with iMCD: combination with BCD regimen benefits severe cases

**Authors:** Si-yuan Li, Yu-han Gao, Yue Dang, Long Chang, Kai-ni Shen, Hua-cong Cai, Dan-qing Zhao, Chong Wei, Jun Feng, Lu Zhang, Jian Li

**Summary:** Idiopathic multicentric Castleman disease (iMCD) is a rare disease characterized by polyclonal lymphoproliferation and systemic inflammation. Siltuximab, targeting interleukin-6 (IL-6), has been recommended as the first-line therapy for iMCD. However, substantial real-world data from China were still lacking, and treatment for patients with severe iMCD remains challenging. This single-center retrospective study investigated the real-world efficacy and safety of siltuximab-based therapy in 43 consecutive patients with iMCD in China from July 2022 to March 2024. The overall response rate (including symptomatic and biochemical response) was 59% at week 3 and increased to 91% at week 12, with complete and partial response rates of 54% and 37%, respectively. Patients who received siltuximab as a first-line treatment exhibited better treatment response (OR = 0.040, 95% CI, 0.004-0.390,  $p=0.006$ ). Inflammatory markers (such as IL-6 and high-sensitivity C-reactive protein [hsCRP]) and pathologic types showed no predictive role in the treatment responses. Eighteen patients, who were all classified as severe iMCD, received combined therapy with bortezomib, cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone (BCD); of them, the overall response rate was 50% at week 3, which increased to 100% at week 12. Our findings reinforced the existing evidence on the efficacy and safety of siltuximab and highlighted the potential benefits of combining siltuximab with BCD regimen, especially in severe cases.