

Comparative efficacy of biological drugs in the maintenance phase in adult patients with moderate-severe plaque psoriasis

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BACKGROUND

Infliximab, adalimumab, etanercept and ustekinumab are indicated to treat moderate-severe plaque psoriasis in Europe.

PURPOSE

To evaluate the relative efficacy of biological drugs in the maintenance phase in adults with moderate-severe plaque psoriasis in order to determine if there are clinically relevant differences between the biological agents.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A **systematic review** of literature has been conducted focused on the long term efficacy.

Databases:

until March 2012
MEDLINE
EMBASE
Cochrane Library
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

Selection criteria:

Health technology agencies reports, bayesian network meta-analyses, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials (RCTs), non-RCT, and observational studies in patients with moderate-severe plaque psoriasis treated with biologics at the doses approved by the EMA.

The outcome evaluated was **PASI (Psoriasis Area and Severity Index) 75**.

Two authors independently selected the studies, assessed the quality, and performed the data extraction.

To assess the clinical relevance of the efficacy results (based on unadjusted indirect comparisons), as the ACCEPT study is the only RCT that directly compares two biological drugs in this population, a **delta value of 14%** was set. This value was regarded as the threshold for the maximum difference in clinical efficacy between two biologics.

RESULTS

There is no direct evidence neither adjusted indirect comparisons that compared the relative efficacy of these four biological drugs.

A systematic review, two non-randomized studies, and a retrospective observational study were included.

Biological agents	Study	n	Week	PASI 75
Infliximab	Lucka et al. 2012	301	50	61%
Ustekinumab 90 mg	Igarashi et al. 2012	62	64	79%
Ustekinumab 45 mg	Igarashi et al. 2012	64	64	65%
Adalimumab	Gordon et al. 2012	345	60	59%
Etanercept 2x25 mg weekly	Fernández-Torres et al. 2013	76	72	56%

Regarding the clinical relevance of these results, and assuming the current limitations of the design of the studies, infliximab, ustekinumab 45mg, adalimumab and etanercept 50mg weekly could be considered similar.

CONCLUSION

The available data on long-term treatment with biological agents is scarce and heterogeneous. Biological drugs could be considered similar in terms of PASI 75 in the maintenance phase in patients with moderate-severe plaque psoriasis.