

2SPD-008 - Switching to a biosimilar adalimumab in Dutch University Medical Centers: it's not that hard!

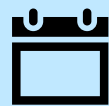
Background

- Biosimilars are equivalent to the original reference product in terms of efficacy and safety and can significantly attenuate the cost increase^{1, 2}.
- In the Netherlands, University Medical Centers (UMCs) make joint purchasing agreements for as many drugs as possible.
- The 2021 procurement of adalimumab, a TNF α blocker for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis and uveitis, among others, resulted in the designation of a biosimilar (Hyrimoz[®]) as the most effective choice.

Methods



New biosimilar



Oct 2021 – Jan 2023



8 University Medical Centers



T = -3, 0, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months after introduction of the new biosimilar



Main outcome parameter: % switch of adalimumab



Add-on drug claims data; joint hospital monitoring system



Qualitative interviews (hospital) pharmacists

Conclusions

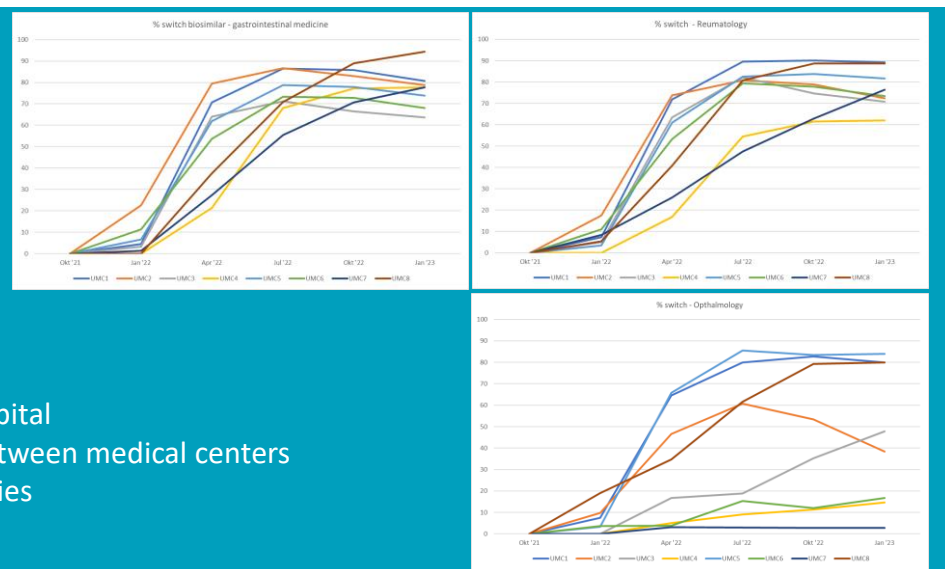
In this field study, we observed that the pace and success of implementation varied by UMC, and the process may be improved by:

- sharing best practices within UMCs
- paying more attention to "smaller" specialties such as Ophthalmology
- monitoring and feedback of data improves % of switch

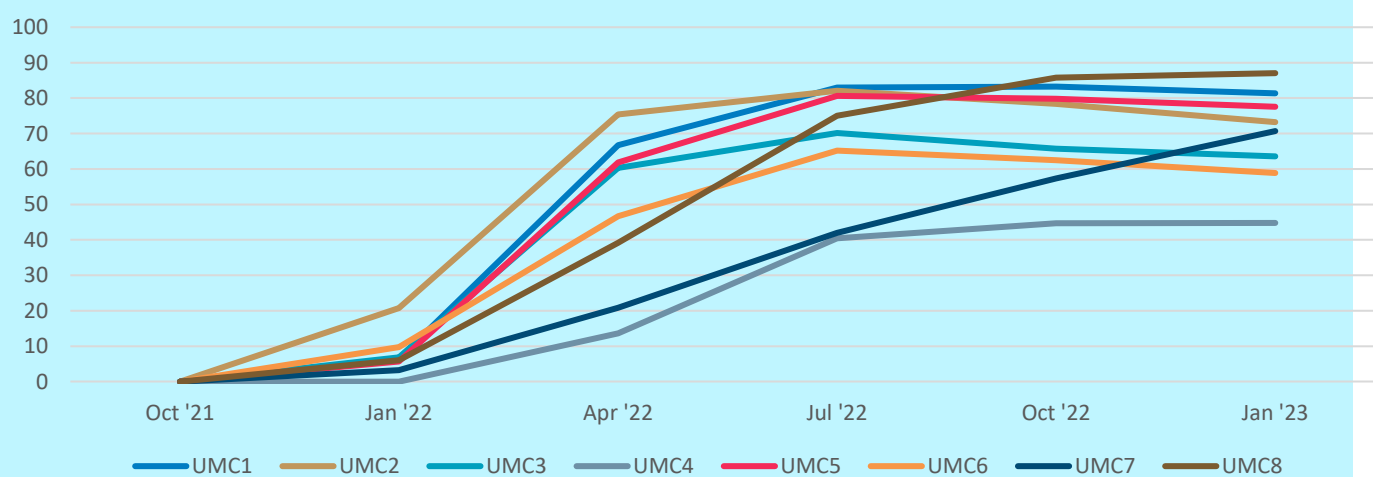
Results



- 6000 adalimumab patients
- After 1 year:
 - switch 70% of patients
 - back switch: 3% of patients
- no dosage form for children
- different approaches per hospital
- percentages switch varied between medical centers and between medical specialties



% switch to biosimilar



Tips & Tricks

- Good communication between pharmacists and prescribers
- Use of a predefined script from the professional pharmacist organization³
- Right message to the patient
- Monitoring data!

References

- https://www.medicinesforeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/biosimilars_report_en.pdf.
- Journal of pharmaceutical sciences, 110(4), 1572–1582. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xphs.2021.02.003>
- NVZA Toolbox Biosimilars – Een praktische handleiding voor succesvolle implementatie van biosimilars in de medische specialistische zorg. https://nvza.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NVZA-Toolbox-biosimilars_7-april-2017.pdf

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