PSORIASIS

EFFICACY AND SECURITY PROFILE OF ETANERCEPT BIOSIMILAR IN PSORIASIS

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Background: Biosimilars are drugs developed in order to be similar to an already authorized biological therapy, of which patent has expired. The active principle of biosimilar is analogous, but not identical, to that of the originator drug (there may be small differences due to the complexity of the pharmacological structure and to production techniques), even if the therapeutic indications and the relative dosages remain the same. In Tuscany, the biosimilar drug of etanercept (Benepali®) has been approved, since 2017, for the treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Material/methods: We present and discuss our experience with Benepali® in psoriasis vulgaris. We analyzed patients characteristics, disease activity, laboratory parameters and adverse events for an average period of 48 weeks.

Results: To date, 45 patients are in treatment with Benepali®. 12 patients were naive to treatment with etanercept and in 33 patients the switch was made from etanercept originator.

Conclusions: Overall, in our experience, biosimilar etanercept has provided positive results concerning cutaneous psoriasis control, and it is also effective in controlling the concomitant arthritis and the main comorbidities with a good safety profile.