



PSORIASIS

ITCHING AND SECUKINUMAB: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Stefano Dastoli⁽¹⁾ - Martina Silvestri⁽²⁾ - Luigi Bennardo⁽²⁾ - Elisabetta Scali⁽²⁾ - Giusy Schipani⁽²⁾ - Steven Paul Nisticò⁽²⁾

Magna Graecia University, Dermatology, Catanzaro, Italy⁽¹⁾ - Magna Graecia University, Dermatology, Catanzaro, Italy⁽²⁾

Background: Itching is a subjective and multidimensional experience which is often difficult to treat. The role of pruritus in psoriasis has always been controversial and it negatively impacts on patients quality of life. In this study we evaluate the effectiveness of Secukinumab in the control of cutaneous and pruritic manifestations of psoriasis.

Observation: 40 Patients aged ≥ 18 years with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis [Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) ≥ 12 and Body Surface Area (BSA) $\geq 10\%$] were enrolled in a 24-weeks clinical trial: each patient was treated with Secukinumab 300mg administered at baseline, at weeks 1, 2, 3 and 4, and then every 4 weeks. Clinical and laboratory assessments were performed at baseline and at weeks 4, 12, and 24. In addition to PASI and BSA, the BMI and the itch intensity with the visual analogue scale (VAS) and the 5-D itch scale were evaluated. Clinical assessments included: PASI to evaluate skin efficacy, DLQI (Dermatology Life Quality Index) to assess the quality of life, VAS and 5-D itch scale to evaluate the response of pruritus to treatment. Itching in 95% of patients disappeared in the 2nd week of treatment. In 55 % of patients the itch was gone after just 1 administration, long before the disappearance of cutaneous lesions.

Key message: Secukinumab showed an important improvement in the clinical manifestation and in the control of pruritus. The disappearing of the itch usually preceded the disappearing of the cutaneous manifestations and it was an indicator of response to the drug.

