



PSORIASIS

## NAIL PSORIASIS TREATED WITH CERTOLIZUMAB PEGOL IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

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**Introduction:** In 30-50% of patients with psoriasis, nail involvement causes functional impairment and reveals a more severe form of psoriasis. Certolizumab pegol (CZP) is a humanized antigen-binding fragment (Fab') of a monoclonal antibody that differs from others anti-TNF- $\alpha$  for the presence of a polyethylene glycol that confers a fast and lasting effect.

**Objective:** The study aims to evaluate safety and efficacy of CZP as monotherapy in the treatment of nail psoriasis.

**Material/methods:** We conducted an observational open study in adults affected by nail psoriasis in association or not with cutaneous psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis. For the evaluation of nail psoriasis we used NAPS (Nail Psoriasis Severity Index). For each nail we considered a score for nail bed psoriasis (0-4) depending on the presence of onycholysis, splinter hemorrhages, subungual hyperkeratosis, "oil drop" (salmon patch dyschromia) and for nail matrix psoriasis (0-4) including pitting, leukonychia and red spots in the lunula. The score ranged from 0 to 80 considering only the hand's nails or 0-160 for toenails. Patients were evaluated with photographic documentation, spA-HAQ, DLQI and laboratory values.

**Results:** We enrolled 8 patients (4 males), mean age 59.8 years affected by psoriatic arthritis and/or cutaneous psoriasis with severe nail involvement treated with Certolizumab pegol as monotherapy. Preliminary data in our previous publication showed reduction of mean NAPS score from 50.34 (baseline) to a mean of 20.05 at week 24, as well as others indicated indexes. We confirmed that results are maintained after two years of treatment.

**Conclusions:** In our knowledge this is the first study concerning CZP as monotherapy in the treatment of nail psoriasis. As we've predicted with our preliminary data, we now confirm the safety and efficacy of CZP in the therapy of nail psoriasis with longer follow up. In addition, evaluation of QoL showed an improvement of daily activities.

