



PSORIASIS

## SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT WITH APREMILAST PSORIATIC PATIENT WITH UNDERLYING CHRONIC HEPATITIS B

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Background: Psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory disease and immunobiological therapy necessary for patients with severe forms, would increase the reactivation risk of viral diseases such as hepatitis B.

Observation: A 64 year old Caucasian man presented with severe psoriasis covering his trunk, limbs, scalp and nails for a year now. Before psoriasis treatment, HBV serology test revealed: HBsAg positive, anti-HBcIgG positive and anti-HBcIgM negative indicative of chronic hepatitis B. Therefore, complete liver function examination was performed which revealed no active liver damage. The patient was prophylactically treated with entecavir and one month later apremilast treatment was initiated. The response was excellent with not any adverse effects.

Key message: The use of apremilast in our patient controlled successfully psoriasis without reactivating HBV disease. To the first of our knowledge it is the first time that apremilast is used with safety, tolerability and efficacy in a patient with severe psoriasis and chronic hepatitis B. Close surveillance of the patient's HBV status before and during therapy is strongly recommended. Laboratory tests are fundamental in monitoring liver function for early detection of viral reactivation. Further studies are needed to assess the risks and benefits of such therapy in these cases.

