



PSORIASIS

## THE PREVALENCE OF GENITAL PSORIASIS IN PATIENTS INITIATED ON BIOLOGIC THERAPY

*J Robinson<sup>(1)</sup> - L Price<sup>(1)</sup> - G Melendez<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Spherix Global Insights, Market Research, Exton, United States<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Introduction:** Genital psoriasis has been perceived by dermatologists as a difficult to treat area for plaque psoriasis and is often underreported. Recently, the FDA approved a label expansion for ixekizumab, an IL-17 inhibitor, to treat psoriasis affecting the genital area.

**Objectives:** To understand the prevalence of genital psoriasis in patients being initiated on biologics and to determine whether drug choice differs depending on the presence of genital psoriasis.

**Methods:** An independent market analytics firm collaborated with US dermatologist (n=154) to conduct a retrospective patient chart review of 1,010 patients diagnosed with plaque psoriasis who had recently been initiated on a biologic/apremilast for the first time. US dermatologists submitted patient data via a HIPAA-compliant form in March/April 2018. The data collected included clinical and non-clinical patient demographics, physician demographics and attitudinal survey responses. An additional survey of 102 dermatologists conducted in September 2018 gathered opinions on the treatment of genital psoriasis.

**Results:** The study found that 34% of patients newly initiated on a biologic presented with genital psoriasis. Ixekizumab was prescribed in 10.7% of patients with genital psoriasis and in 5.4% of patients without genital psoriasis. In addition, share of secukinumab, an IL-17 inhibitor, was also high in patients with genital psoriasis. Overall, significantly more patients treated with IL-17 inhibitors had genital psoriasis compared to other biologics (45% vs. 32%). Findings from a second study suggest that 79% of dermatologists agree that genital psoriasis is underreported by patients and 36% agree IL-17 inhibitors are equally effective at treating genital psoriasis.

**Conclusion:** Ixekizumab is preferentially selected as a treatment option for patients with genital psoriasis; however, many dermatologists believe this to be a class effect as opposed to specific to ixekizumab. With genital psoriasis now included in the product label of ixekizumab, increased recognition of the condition and better diagnosis may occur.

