



PSORIASIS

## SECUKINUMAB EFFICACY WITHOUT THE INITIAL LOADING DOSE IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

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**Background:** Secukinumab is the first in class IL-17A inhibitor for chronic plaque psoriasis administered with the recommended dose of 300 mg with loading dose at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, followed by monthly maintenance dosing. The efficacy of secukinumab without the loading dose has not been investigated.

**Objective:** The objective of the study is investigate the efficacy and safety of secukinumab without the initial weekly loading dose in patients with chronic plaque psoriasis.

**Materials and Methods:** This was a retrospective, observational study. Patients were stratified in two groups, those receiving secukinumab at the dose 300 mg every 4 weeks from the beginning (cases) and those who received the initial label, weekly loading dose (controls). Efficacy was evaluated by comparing the proportion of patients achieving PASI75 responses at week 16, 32 and 48 between cases and controls. Safety was evaluated by reporting every adverse events up to week 48.

**Results:** A total of 156 patients with psoriasis were enrolled in the study including 81 patients who did not receive the standard initial loading dose and 75 patients who did it. PASI75 response rate at week 16, 32 and 48 were 74.6% and 77.3%, 85.1% and 77.1% and 77.5% and 68.5%, in cases and controls respectively. No differences in adverse events were reported between the two groups. A saving of € 3,449.36 per patient was registered by avoiding the initial loading dose.

**Conclusions:** Secukinumab without the initial loading dose was as effective and safe as the standard regimen in patients with psoriasis on the long term.

