



POSTER PRESENTATION

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Safety of treatment with biologics for psoriasis in daily practice: 5-year data

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Introduction

The safety of biological treatment for psoriasis is an important issue. Concerns exist about a possible increased risk of cancer, including nonmelanoma skin cancer and lymphomas in psoriasis patients treated with TNF- α inhibitors [1]. Dermatological conditions have been shown to be a significant and clinically important problem in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving TNF- α blocking therapy [2].

Aim

To prospectively evaluate the 5-year safety of biological treatment for psoriasis in daily practice.

Patients and methods

A cohort of 173 psoriasis patients on biologics was prospectively followed for 5 years [3]. All adverse events reported were documented and analysed. Primary endpoint was the percentage of patients reporting at least one serious adverse event. The rate of malignancies, serious infections and serious cardiovascular events was compared to the general population incidence rate [4]. The nature and rate of dermatological adverse events was compared with a group of prospectively followed rheumatoid arthritis patients on TNF- α blocking therapy [2].

Results

Between February 2005 and April 2010 173 patients were enrolled in the registry and went through a total number of 263 treatment episodes. The total number of patient years of follow-up in the registry was 409. The number of patient years was the highest for etanercept. Forty-nine patients (28%) reported 88 serious adverse events. Only one serious adverse event was certainly causally related to

the biologic and twenty-one events (24% of SAEs) were considered possibly related. The incidence of malignancies, serious infections and serious cardiovascular events was comparable to the population incidence rate, except for skin malignancies. The incidence of skin malignancies was significantly higher than the general population incidence rate. The nature and rate of dermatological adverse events differed from the rheumatoid arthritis cohort.

Conclusion

In this cohort the safety of biological therapies for psoriasis was favorable with a low incidence of therapy-related serious adverse events.

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