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A real-world study to assess the effectiveness of Itolizumab in patients with chronic plaque psoriasis

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Background: The concepts of clinical trial efficacy and real-life effectiveness are both important aspects of clinical decision making. Systematic assessment of real-life effectiveness can lend an evidence-based premise for individualization of treatment options. Real-world data on the anti-psoriatic effectiveness of Itolizumab is relatively scanty.

Aims: The specific aims of this study were to assess safety and efficacy of Itolizumab therapy in patients with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was conducted at three Indian centers between January 2014 to January 2015 to evaluate the long term safety and efficacy of Itolizumab in patients with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis. At these three centers, 135 patients were prescribed Itolizumab in a dose of 1.6 mg/kg every 2 weeks for first 12 weeks followed by 1.6 mg/kg every 4 weeks up to 24 weeks. The study assessed treatment compliance, improvements in PASI scores and DLQI scores at week 12 and week 24 along with safety and tolerability assessments. Statistical analysis involved descriptive statistics and paired t-test.

Results: Out of the 135 patients in the study, 40 (29.62%) received Itolizumab for 12 weeks and 23 (17.03%) patients completed the full Itolizumab regimen. The mean percent change in PASI scores at week 12 and week 24 was 75.16 ($p < 0.001$) and 86.52 ($p < 0.001$), respectively. Furthermore, the mean percent change in DLQI scores at week 12 and week 24 were 60.19 and 82.72, respectively. Adverse events were generally of mild to moderate severity.

Limitations: Although Itolizumab therapy is safe and associated with significant improvements in PASI and DLQI scores, compliance to full treatment regimen is around 29.62%. Reasons for this low-compliance are not clear and may need additional studies.

Conclusions: Itolizumab is associated with significant improvements in PASI and DLQI scores after ≥ 12 weeks of treatment. Only about 29.62% and 17.03% patients completed week 12 and week 24 visits respectively. Considering that adverse events were generally of mild to moderate severity, factors other than safety may be contributing to adherence. Understanding these factors may help tailor treatment plans that ensure appropriate adherence.

Biography

Anchala Parthasarathy has completed his MD in Dermatology from Guntur Medical College, Andhra University, India. Currently he is working as the Director of Anchala's Skin Institute, Hyderabad, India. He has worked as the Head of Department of Dermatology at Image Hospital and successfully guided DNB students in dermatology. He has presented more than 20 papers in national and international conferences and published more than 5 articles in PubMed indexed national and international journals.

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