POS1041

PREVALENCE, INCIDENCE AND ANTIRHEUMATIC DRUG USE IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS (PsA) IN NORWAY

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Background: Incidence estimates of PsA in Norway have varied from 6.9/100,000 person-years (pyrs) in Northern Norway to 41.3/100,000 pyrs in Central Norway, and point prevalence estimates have ranged from 1.3 to 6.9 per 1,000 adult inhabitants^{1,2}, while nationwide epidemiologic data on PsA in Norway have been lacking.

Objectives: To estimate prevalence, incidence and use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) among PsA patients in Norway.

Methods: The Norwegian Cardio-Rheuma register includes pseudonymized data from the total Norwegian population ≥18 years of age during 2008-2017, identified from the National Population register. Demographic and socioeconomic data were retrieved from Statistics Norway. Data on public or private somatic specialized care episodes were collected from the Norwegian Patient register (NPR) [ICD-10 codes for diagnoses and medical procedure codes for biologic DMARD infusions]. Information on dispensed DMARD prescriptions was captured from the Norwegian Prescription Database. Based on NPR data, PsA cases were defined as persons fulfilling three criteria: 1) 1st episode with ICD-10 code M07.0-M07.3 or L40.5 as main or contributory diagnosis (index date), 2) 2nd episode with code M07.0-M07.3 or L40.5 within 2-year period following index date, 3) an episode in internal medicine or rheumatology clinic with recorded M07.0-M07.3 or L40.5 within 2 years from index date. Years 2008-2010 served as a look-back period to identify prevalent PsA cases. To estimate pyrs at risk, we calculated number of individuals aged ≥ 18 years living in Norway on the 1st of January of each year 2011-2015 multiplied by one year (prevalent PsA cases excluded). Age- and sex-standardized incidence rates were calculated with 5-year age groups using the Norwegian adult population on January 1st 2015 as the standard.

Results: During the look-back period 2008-2010, 7,697 cases fulfilled the PsA definition. In total, 6,183 incident PsA cases were identified during 2011-2015 (incidence 32/100,000 pyrs, 28 among men and 35 among women). Based on a sensitivity analysis comprising 5,065 PsA cases with no dispensed DMARD prescriptions ≥12 months before index date, incidence was slightly lower (26/100,000 pyrs). Patient characteristics and DMARD use are shown in Table 1. The incidence was highest among those aged 50-59 years in both sexes (Figure 1). PsA incidence was lower among those with higher education level (crude/age- and sex-standardized incidence per 100,000 pyrs for those below upper secondary education 34/38, upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education 36/36, higher education 26/25). Point prevalence of PsA was 3.3/1,000 adult inhabitants on January 1st 2016.

Table 1. Characteristics and treatment penetration of incident PsA patients 2011-2015

	All	Excluding cases with DMARDs >1 yr prior to index date
N	6183	5065
Women, n (%)	3442 (55.7)	2783 (54.9)
Age at index date, median (IQR)	50.5 (40.7 - 59.8)	49.9 (40.2 - 59.3)
Use of DMARDs after index date, n (%)	12 months 24 months	12 months 24 months
Any conventional DMARD	3706 (59.9)	4048 (65.4)
Methotrexate	3313 (53.6)	2638 (52.1)
Sulfasalazine	440 (7.1)	330 (6.5)
Any biologic DMARD	842 (13.6)	771 (15.2)
TNF-inhibitors	810 (13.1)	758 (15.0)
Oral glucocorticoids	1773 (28.7)	1449 (28.6)
Any DMARD or glucocorticoids	4365 (70.6)	3384 (66.8)

Conclusion: Our estimate of PsA incidence and prevalence are in the mid-range compared to studies from smaller regions in Norway. Methotrexate was initiated for more than half of PsA cases within one year from index date, whereas 19% had used biologic DMARDs within two years.

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Figure 1.

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POS1042

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF DEUCRAVACITINIB, AN ORAL, SELECTIVE TYROSINE KINASE 2 (TYK2) INHIBITOR, COMPARED WITH PLACEBO AND APREMILAST IN MODERATE TO SEVERE PLAQUE PSORIASIS: RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 3 POETYK PSO-1 STUDY

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Background: Tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) is an intracellular kinase that mediates interleukin (IL)-23, IL-12, and interferon (IFN)α/β signaling. Deucravacitinib is a novel, oral, selective inhibitor of TYK2 acting via binding to the TYK2 regulatory domain.¹ Phase 2 results showed deucravacitinib was efficacious and well tolerated versus placebo in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis or active psoriatic arthritis.^{2,3} No herpes zoster infections, opportunistic infections, thromboembolic events, or hematologic or lipid abnormalities characteristic of Janus kinase (JAK) 1-3 inhibitors were reported in the Phase 2 trials.^{2,3}

Objectives: To compare the efficacy and safety of deucravacitinib versus placebo and apremilast in plaque psoriasis.

Methods: This Phase 3, double-blinded, 52-week study (NCT03624127) randomized patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (BSA ≥10%, PASI ≥12, sPGA ≥3) to deucravacitinib 6 mg once daily, placebo, or apremilast 30 mg twice daily (2:1:1). Patients receiving placebo were switched to deucravacitinib at Week 16; apremilast-treated patients not achieving PASI 50 at Week 24 were switched to deucravacitinib. Coprimary endpoints were PASI 75 and sPGA 0/1 response versus placebo at Week 16. Key secondary endpoints included superiority versus apremilast, assessed via multiple measures.

Results: 666 patients were randomized. Demographic and baseline disease characteristics were balanced across groups; mean age was 46.1 years, mean