Calcipotriol plus betamethasone dipropionate aerosol foam vs. apremilast, methotrexate, acitretin or fumaric acid esters for the treatment of plaque psoriasis: a matching-adjusted indirect comparison

AUTHORS
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SUMMARY
This pooled analysis of data compared efficacy of calcipotriol/betamethasone dipropionate (Cal/BD) foam in individual patient data from 4 trials in 749 patients with psoriasis vulgaris versus patients treated with apremilast, methotrexate, acitretin or fumaric acid esters. Baseline matched data suggested that Cal/BD foam for 4 weeks produced a better PGA 0/1 response than 16 weeks of apremilast (52.7% vs 30.4%; p < 0.001) and a greater PASI 75 response (51.1% vs 21.6%; p < 0.001). Cal/BD foam also had greater PASI 75 responses after 4 weeks than 12 weeks of methotrexate (50.8% vs 33.5%; p < 0.001) or acitretin (50.9% vs 31.7%; p = 0.009) and did not differ from that with fumaric acid esters (42.4% vs 47.0%; p = 0.451).

COMMENT
In Australia, we have had Enstilar® for several years. Not uncommonly we are treating patients who have moderate disease and feel that systemic therapies or phototherapy will be required to settle their problem. A London article looking at the combined data in 749 patients. The two systemic agents in this study that we have access to are methotrexate and acitretin. The methotrexate treatment data was reviewed after 12 weeks of systemic methotrexate versus 4 weeks of topical foam. The intent of putting this article in was to remind readers that topical therapies, particularly this topical therapy, may give patients very good clinical response. There are obvious safety issues with using systemic treatments. Having used Daivonex®, Daivobet® and now the foam, it is fascinating how a change in delivery systems provides a very much superior result.

REFERENCE
Strength and speed

Visible signs of improvement as early as week 1

Enstilar®
calcipotriol 50μg/g
betamethasone 500μg/g as dipropionate

PBS Reimbursed for all severities of psoriasis vulgaris in adults


PBS Information: Enstilar® 60g. Restricted benefit. Treatment of chronic stable plaque type psoriasis vulgaris in a patient who is not adequately controlled by potent topical corticosteroid monotherapy.


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