Although the use of biological agents for the treatment of psoriasis is widespread in clinical practice, studies on its persistence over time are scarce. Estimate the persistence of treatment with biological agents in patients diagnosed with psoriasis receiving first biological treatment.

**POPULATION**

132 patients
- 56.8% males
- Mean age 44.61 years (SD=14.46)

- 3% of patients continue first biological treatment
- 94% discontinued
- 3% lost follow-up

Mean PASI
- At the beginning (90 unknown): 14.5 (SD=6.6)
- At the discontinuation date (84 unknown):
  - Clinical improvement/remission: 0.4 (SD=1)
  - The rest: 9.2 (SD=6.9)

**RESULTS**

**PERSISTENCE OF FIRST BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT**

Overall persistence: 239 days (95%CI: 181.3-296.7)

- **INFLIXIMAB** 339 (95%CI: 0.0-780.6)
- **EFALIZUMAB** 184 (95%CI: 43.8-324.2)
- **ADALIMUMAB** 337 (95%CI: 26.4-388.7)
- **ETANERCEPT** 176 (95%CI: 177.5-234.5)
- **USTEKINUMAB** 350 (95%CI: 0.0-880.0)

No significant differences (p=0.121)

**REASONS OF DISCONTINUATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>INFLIXIMAB</th>
<th>EFALIZUMAB</th>
<th>ADALIMUMAB</th>
<th>ETANERCEPT</th>
<th>USTEKINUMAB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No discontinuation</td>
<td>10% (n=1)</td>
<td>0% (n=0)</td>
<td>0% (n=0)</td>
<td>5% (n=3)</td>
<td>0% (n=0)</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontinuation</td>
<td>90% (n=9)</td>
<td>100% (n=22)</td>
<td>97% (n=32)</td>
<td>90% (n=55)</td>
<td>83.3% (n=5)</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSION**

The median overall persistence is low (less than a year). The specific persistence is approximately one year for infliximab, adalimumab and ustekinumab and half a year for efalizumab and etanercept. These outcomes could make us believe they are not well tolerated or ineffective. However, the main reason for discontinuation was clinical improvement/remissions follow by failure.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

**Background**

Retrospective, observational study

Population and study period
- Patients diagnosed with psoriasis who initiated first biological treatment since its commercialization until August 2011 (at least 5 years follow-up)

Persistence was defined as time (days) from the start of treatment until its discontinuation for dispensations periods higher than three months to include optimization regimen.

**Purpose**

Variables collected
- Age
- Sex
- Treatment start date
- Treatment discontinuation date
- PASI (Psoriasis Area Severity Index)
- Reason of discontinuation

Outcome variables
- Median overall and specific persistence for each treatment

Calculation
- Kaplan-Meier survival curves (Log-Rank test)
- Statistic programme: SPSS*

**Market withdrawal in 2009**

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