

Treatment Persistence of Biologics among patients with Psoriatic Arthritis

Amir Haddad (✉ Haddadamir@yahoo.com)

Carmel Hospital

Tal Gazitt

Carmel Hospital

Ilan Feldhamer

Clalit Health Services

Joy Feld

Carmel Hospital

Arnon Dov Cohen

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Faculty of Health Sciences

Idit Lavi

Carmel Hospital

Faten Tatour

Carmel Hospital

Irina Bergman

Carmel Hospital

Devy Zisman

Carmel Hospital

Research article

Keywords: psoriatic arthritis, drug persistence, biologics

Posted Date: September 17th, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-78064/v1>

License: © ⓘ This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. [Read Full License](#)

Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published on January 29th, 2021. See the published version at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13075-021-02417-x>.

Abstract

Background Persistence of biologic therapy in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) patients is an important factor in individualized patient treatment planning and healthcare policy and guideline development. .

Objective To estimate the persistence of biologic agents prescribed to PsA patients in a real-life setting as well as factors associated with improved biologic drug survival in these patients.

Methods Patients with PsA from a large health care provider database with at least two consecutive dispensed prescriptions of a biologic agent indicated for PsA from January 1st, 2002 until December 31st, 2018 were identified and followed until medication stop date or the end of observation period. Patients were considered non-persistent whenever a permissible lag time of 6 months from the time of prescription issuance until medication filling date was exceeded. Treatment changes were based on physician decisions and patient preferences.

Demographic data including age, sex, body mass index (BMI), ethnicity, smoking history and socioeconomic status as well as Charlson comorbidity index were retrieved. Data regarding use of steroids and conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (cDMARDs) were also extracted. Descriptive statistics, including means (standard deviations) for continuous variables and frequencies (%) for categorical variables, were used. Persistence estimates were derived using non-parametric survival analysis using Kaplan-Meier functions, with treatment discontinuations as failure events. Cox regression hazard ratio models were conducted to investigate factors associated with drug persistence.

Results 2301 PsA patients with 2958 treatment periods were identified and included in the analyses. Mean age of the study population was 50.9±14 years, 54% females, 70.4% with BMI>25, 40% current smokers, and 76% with a Charlson comorbidity index>1. The most commonly prescribed drug was etanercept (33%), followed by adalimumab (29%), golimumab (12%), secukinumab (10%), ustekinumab (8%) and infliximab (8%). While approximately 40% of patients persisted on therapy following 20 months of treatment, only about 20% of patients remained on any particular biologic agent after 5 years. Analyzing the data for all treatment periods while taking into account all lines of therapy, revealed that secukinumab had a higher persistency than adalimumab, infliximab and ustekinumab, with a Log Rank of 0.022, 0.047 and 0.001, respectively. Female sex and smoking were associated with lower drug persistence (HR=1.25, 95%CI=1.13-1.38 and HR=1.109, 95%CI=1.01-1.21, respectively). On analyzing the data using only the first indicated biologic line, no superiority of any single anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (anti-TNF α) agent was observed. While, secukinumab was found to be superior as second line therapy to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab but not to golimumab with a Log-Rank P-value of 0.001, 0.004, 0.025 and 0.002, respectively.

Conclusions In this large observational cohort studied in the era of biologic therapy, a relatively low drug persistence was observed, with female sex and smoking having a negative impact on persistency. None of the anti-TNF α agents was found to be more persistent than others as first line therapy, while secukinumab was found to be superior to other biologics when indicated as second line of therapy.

Background

Psoriatic arthritis is a seronegative spondyloarthropathy that greatly impacts patients' function and quality of life(1). Beyond the musculoskeletal and skin features of the disease, patients with PsA experience fatigue, physical function limitations, sleep disturbance, as well as diminished work capacity and social participation(2).

In the past few decades, treatment of PsA has changed based on a better understanding of disease pathogenesis. Targeting TNF α is considered a milestone in the paradigm of PsA treatment as several randomized controlled trials and registries have demonstrated the efficacy of anti-TNF α agents in halting clinical and radiographic progression. (3) More recently, the Interleukin-23 (IL-23)/T_H17 axis has also been shown to play an important role in PsA disease pathogenesis with the IL-12/23 p40 inhibitor (ustekinumab) and IL-17A inhibitors (secukinumab and ixikizumab) also playing a pivotal role in disease control. (3) The most recent 2019 European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for PsA treatment advise on use of either IL-17 inhibitors or TNF α blockers as first line biologic therapy for PsA patients.(4)

As more treatment options for PsA are currently available on the market than ever before, describing treatment persistence from real-life experience is gaining in importance as it contributes to better-informed clinical decisions regarding therapeutic choices for PsA patients with the goals of optimizing symptom remission, promoting functional recovery, and reducing health care costs.

The aim of this study was to estimate the treatment persistence in a real-world setting of biologic agents prescribed to PsA patients as well as factors associated with improved persistence of these drugs.

Methods

Clalit health services (CHS), Israel's largest healthcare provider serving some 4.4 million members constituting 52% of Israel's population, maintains a database that receives continuous real-time input from pharmaceutical, medical and administrative digital systems(5). Designed for purposes of administrative and clinical management, the database is available for clinical studies. The quality and accuracy of the register is high and the reliability of the diagnoses of PsA was estimated in another study and found to be high(6).

All patients with the diagnosis of PsA above the age of 18 with at least two consecutive dispensed prescriptions with any available biologic agent indicated for PsA under the Israeli National Healthcare Drug Plan from January 1st, 2002 until December 31st, 2018, were identified and followed until medication stop date or the end of the observation period. Under the Israeli National Healthcare Drug Plan, treatment with biologic therapy for PsA is indicated after the failure of two conventional disease modifying anti rheumatic drugs (cDMARDs). At the time of the study, six biologic agents were approved and available on the Israeli market for PsA, including adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, golimumab, ustekinumab and secukinumab. Treatment was considered non-persistent whenever a 6-month interval from time of prescription of any biologic agent until the time of medication filling was exceeded provided patients were not started on a different biologic agent during that period, in order to prevent the counting of any short absences of treatment for reasons such as infection or surgery to be classified as non-persistence. This six-month time interval was decided after analyzing the data to allow for a reasonable grace period for medication filling as a shorter grace period of 3 or 4 months might have resulted in a higher misclassification rate of non-persistence.

Demographic data including age, sex, ethnicity (Jewish or Arab), smoking history (current or past smoking) and socioeconomic status (SES) at inception (determined according to the CHS categories of low, medium and high, a classification system which has been shown to highly correlate with SES assigned by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics)(7) were collected. The BMI and patients' Charlson comorbidity index were calculated from the CHS database. Data regarding the concomitant use of glucocorticosteroids (GC) and cDMARDs such as methotrexate (MTX), leflunomide (LEF), sulfasalazine (SSZ) and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) were also extracted from the database.

Descriptive statistics, including means (standard deviations) for continuous variables and frequencies (%) for categorical variables, were used. Persistence estimates were derived using non-parametric survival analysis using Kaplan-Meier functions, with treatment discontinuations as failure events. Patients were right-censored for death and end of data availability. Cox regression hazard ratio models were conducted to investigate factors associated with drug persistence including age, sex, smoking status, the Charlson comorbidity index, the use of cDMARDs, and the year of initial availability of each biologic agent on the Israeli market.

The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Carmel Medical Center, Haifa (CMC0014-14).

Results

2301 PsA patients were identified and included in the analyses after meeting the inclusion criteria of the study. Patients' characteristics are described in Table 1. The mean age of the study population was 50.9±14 years, 54% females, 70.4% with BMI>25, 36% considered obese (BMI>30), 40% were current smokers, and only 24% had a Charlson comorbidity index of 0.

Table 1 : Demographics and characteristics of the study group_

Patients characteristics		N=2301	
Age		50.9±14 years	
Sex	Male	429	46.1%
	Female	502	53.9%
SES	unknown	6	0.7%
	Low	275	30.8%
	Medium	365	40.8%
	High	248	27.7%
Ethnicity	Arab	120	13.4%
	Jewish	774	86.6%
BMI	0-18.5	21	2.3%
	18.5-25	249	27.3%
	25-30	304	33.4%
	30+	337	37.0%
Obesity	No	589	63.3%
	Yes	342	36.7%
Smoking status	No	557	59.9%
	Yes	373	40.1%
Charlson comorbidity index	0	227	24.4%
	1	372	40.0%
	2	148	15.9%
	3	103	11.1%
	4+	80	8.6%

BMI-body mass index, SES-socioeconomic status

From 2002 - 2018, a total of 2958 treatment periods were identified. The disposition of the patients and of the treatment periods are described in Table 2. The most commonly prescribed drug was etanercept (33%), followed by adalimumab (29%), and infliximab in only 8% of the cases., Fewer prescriptions of other biologic agents partially due to later entry of these therapeutic agents into the Israeli drug market or due to physician/patient preferences were noted.

Table 2 Treatment periods and frequency in the study group

Treatment periods			Patients on biologics		
	Treatment periods	% of patients		Number of patients	% of patients
Adalimumab	848	28.7	Adalimumab	660	28.7
Etanercept	989	33.4	Etanercept	643	27.9
Infliximab	233	7.9	Infliximab	179	7.8
Ustekinumab	240	8.1	Ustekinumab	199	8.6
Golimumab	356	12.0	Golimumab	331	14.4
Secukinumab	292	9.9	Secukinumab	289	12.6
Total	2958	100.0	Total	2301	100.0

The concomitant use of cDMARDs with bDMARDs is listed in Table 3. A notable decrease in the use of MTX is seen with the introduction of all biologics. However, patients on infliximab were more likely to stay on concomitant treatment with MTX. Oral/parenteral GC were prescribed at least once during 33-43% of the treatment periods.

Table 3 – The concomitant use of other medications with biologics

		Treatment periods												P value
		Adalimumab		Etanercept		Infliximab		Ustekinumab		Golimumab		Secukinumab		
Concomitant MTX	No	642	75.7%	807	81.6%	159	68.2%	210	87.5%	267	75.0%	244	83.6%	0.001
	Yes	206	24.3%	182	18.4%	74	31.8%	30	12.5%	89	25.0%	48	16.4%	
Concomitant other cDMARDs	No	783	92.3%	919	92.9%	210	90.1%	221	92.1%	311	87.4%	264	90.4%	0.03
	Yes	65	7.7%	70	7.1%	23	9.9%	19	7.9%	45	12.6%	28	9.6%	
MTX before	No	163	19.2%	177	17.9%	47	20.2%	43	17.9%	44	12.4%	40	13.7%	0.03
	Yes	685	80.8%	812	82.1%	186	79.8%	197	82.1%	312	87.6%	252	86.3%	
cDMARDs before	No	322	38.0%	319	32.3%	106	45.5%	103	42.9%	101	28.4%	102	34.9%	0.001
	Yes	526	62.0%	670	67.7%	127	54.5%	137	57.1%	255	71.6%	190	65.1%	
GC	No	510	60.1%	633	64.0%	132	56.7%	141	58.8%	195	54.8%	196	67.1%	0.03
	Yes	338	39.9%	356	36.0%	101	43.3%	99	41.3%	161	45.2%	96	32.9%	

cDMARDs-conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, GC-glucocorticosteroids, MTX-methotrexate

A Kaplan-Mayer survival analysis with pairwise comparisons of all treatment choices with respect to lines of therapy was conducted. When analyzing the data for all treatment periods while taking into account all lines of therapy, secukinumab had a higher persistency than adalimumab, infliximab and ustekinumab, with a Log Rank of 0.022, 0.047, and 0.001, respectively, as is shown in Figure 1. Comparisons of other treatment modalities were not significantly different in this model.

On analyzing the data using only the first indicated biologic line, no biologic agent was found to be superior to any other as is shown in Figure 2. Of note, during the study period, the four TNF-alpha blockers etanercept, adalimumab, infliximab and golimumab were the only medications of this class available to be used as first line agents on the Israeli market so the comparison did not include secukinumab or ustekinumab.

As all biologic agents were equally available for use as second line agents, a survival analysis was conducted censoring for medications used as second line agents, with results shown in Figure 3. The analysis revealed superiority of secukinumab compared to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, and ustekinumab but not to golimumab with a Log-Rank P value of 0.001, 0.004, 0.025, and 0.002, respectively. Golimumab had a higher persistency than adalimumab with a Log-Rank P value of 0.027. Other pairwise comparisons did not reach statistical difference.

Cox regression hazard ratio models were conducted to investigate factors associated with drug persistence as shown in Table 4. Female sex and smoking was associated with lower drug persistence. Patients who were

obese also had lower estimates for drug persistency although not reaching statistical significance. Patients who were on concomitant treatment with MTX or GC were more likely to stay persistent on their biologic therapy. Moreover, a negative correlation was noted between drug persistency and the advancement of the various treatment lines, with a gradient decrease in drug persistency as patients advanced through alternative lines of biologic therapy, so that patients failing prior lines of treatment were less likely to stay persistent on newer lines of therapy.

Table 4- Adjusted cox proportional hazard model for treatment discontinuation

	HR	95.0% CI for	
		Lower	Upper
Female vs. Male	1.249	1.134	1.376
Age 30-39 (compared to 18-29)	0.972	0.785	1.204
Age 40-49	1.000	0.810	1.234
Age 50-59	1.032	0.836	1.273
Age 60-69	0.945	0.758	1.178
Age>70	1.061	0.812	1.387
SES- Medium	0.898	0.798	1.011
SES- High	0.918	0.805	1.048
Ethnicity- Arab	1.136	0.972	1.328
Ethnicity-Jewish	0.913	0.693	1.203
Charlson comorbidity index	1.004	0.973	1.035
BMI_Thin	1.146	0.833	1.577
BMI_overweight	1.082	0.952	1.228
BMI_obese	1.126	0.993	1.278
Smokers	1.109	1.008	1.219
Concomitant MTX	0.830	0.737	0.933
Concomitant cDMARDs	0.958	0.811	1.131
MTX use before	0.891	0.788	1.008
cDMARDs use before	1.027	0.931	1.134
Concurrent GC	0.569	0.515	0.629
Rx line2 vs. line1	1.263	1.117	1.427
Rx line3 vs. line1	1.296	1.119	1.500
Rx line4 vs. line1	1.590	1.382	1.829
Start of biologic 2012 vs.. 2018	1.657	1.339	2.051
Start of biologic 2013 vs. 2018	1.526	1.234	1.887
Start of biologic 2014 vs. 2018	1.484	1.204	1.829
Start of biologic 2015 vs. 2018	1.521	1.233	1.878
Start of biologic 2016 vs. 2018	1.697	1.393	2.066
Start of biologic 2017 vs. 2018	1.410	1.157	1.719

BMI-body mass index, cDMARDs-conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, GC-glucocorticosteroids, MTX-methotrexate, Rx-treatment, SES-socioeconomic status

Because time of introduction of any particular biologic agent into the Israeli drug market could potentially affect treatment choices and decisions, we incorporated the year of initial medication arrival onto the Israeli market into the statistical model, and compared it to 2018. In this analysis, we did not find any preference for any one medication over other medications for any given year.

Discussion

Real-world data on drug persistency in PsA patients is scarce. This study was conducted from a large, comprehensive, national dataset, composed of a diverse general population of 2301 PsA patients using all available bDMARDs indicated for PsA in Israel from 2002 until 2018.

We report higher drug persistency rates in PsA patients on secukinumab when indicated as second line therapy compared to adalimumab, infliximab and ustekinumab. Our study also demonstrates higher biologic drug persistency in male PsA patients over female patients, with a reduction in drug persistency associated with smoking as well as biologic monotherapy.

Our real-world results on biologic persistence are in keeping with a study by Stober et al(8) which evaluated the persistency of TNF α blockers limited to etanercept and adalimumab in 188 PsA patients, showing a lower persistency in female patients. As in that study, we did not find improved drug survival when analyzing the data for the first biologic agent used, which included the four TNF α blockers available on the market at the time of the study. As for the effect of MTX in combination therapy, we report a better drug persistency in patients on concurrent MTX. The role of MTX has been controversial, with a systemic review on all TNF α blockers failing to show any effect of combination therapy on drug survival except for infliximab(9), and with the SEAM study reporting no advantage for combination therapy of MTX with enatercept over monotherapy with etanercept alone(10). However, the more recent Future2 study did show that more patients treated with MTX achieved ACR20 response than secukinumab as monotherapy.(11)

Our study did not find any association between patient age or SES on drug persistency. Our finding that smoking is a predictor for non-persistency is supported by other observational studies in the literature(12–14), as tobacco use is considered a significant environmental risk factor for developing inflammatory arthritis and there are indications that smoking exacerbates the symptoms and worsens disease outcomes. As for obesity, evidence from the literature points to its being a major culprit for disease non-response(15). Findings from our study also support this notion, as there was a trend for lower drug persistency in obese patients, but this finding did not reach statistical significance.

As expected, patients who failed prior biologic therapy were less likely to remain persistent on newer biologic agents, in keeping with the report of Harrold et al. on data from the Corrona Registry on 549 biologic-naïve and 692 biologic-experienced PsA patients showing a greater mean time to non-persistence in the former group(16). In addition, numerous studies have demonstrated that switching between TNF α blockers results in lower response rates than when used as first line therapy.(17, 18)

Our study showed that the persistence of golimumab was better than adalimumab when censoring the data for the second biologic line used. This is in keeping with the results of a study by Rotar et al(19) on 2022 patients with either rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) or PsA, which showed better persistence of golimumab compared to other TNF α blockers in biologic-experienced AS and PsA patients but not overall.

Our results show that approximately 40% of patients persist on therapy after 20 months of treatment, but only about 20% of patients stay on the same biologic agent after 5 years of treatment. In our review of the literature, the definitions used for drug persistency vary considerably in different studies. Saad et al(20) showed that approximately 82%, 70%, and 59% of the population from the British Society of Rheumatology Biologics Register

involving 566 participants with PsA remained on the first anti-TNF α agent after 1, 2, and 3 years of treatment, respectively. In 2016, Palmer and colleagues(21) observed that the mean biologic drug persistence was approximately 17 months among 990 PsA patients receiving TNF α blockers as first-line therapy. In a different study, Fagerli et al. (22) estimated that approximately 47% of 625 participants diagnosed with PsA from the UK, remained on their initial anti-TNF α therapy after 5 years. Another study from an administrative claims database in the United States(23) on 1235 PsA patients reported 56% of patients discontinuing their index biologic agent within a year, with a mean duration of persistence of 8 months. More recently, Jacob and colleagues(24) reported a low persistence of biologics of 32% after 5 years of followup on PsA patients in rheumatology practices in Germany. Yet another recent study by the EuroSpa collaboration registries from Europe reported a 1-year retention rate of 77% for TNF α inhibitors in over 14000 biologic-naïve PsA patients compared to a 2-year drug survival of 56% and 50% for PsA patients on second-line biologic therapy in the NOR-DMARD study(25) and in the Portuguese registry(26), respectively.

In our study, secukinumab had a better persistency when indicated as second line therapy. A number of matching-adjusted indirect comparisons have been published demonstrating conflicting though higher responses for secukinumab over infliximab(27), adalimumab(28) and etanercept(29). Notably, secukinumab only narrowly missed statistical significance for superiority over adalimumab in the primary endpoint of the head-to-head EXCEED trial, showing only numerically higher results versus adalimumab(30). Thus, our data might suggest that switching to secukinumab would be a better medication choice after TNF α blocker failure. This is more in line with the 2015 Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) treatment recommendations(3)and the updated 2019 EULAR recommendations(4) which place secukinumab as a first line agent alongside other biologics, unlike the earlier 2015 EULAR(31) as well as the 2018 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) / National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF)(32) guidelines, which specified TNF α blockers as first line biologic therapy and anti-IL-17 agents to be considered when TNF α blockers are "inappropriate."

There are some limitations in our study. Our results should be interpreted in caution as treatment indications and switching were not based on any protocol but rather on patient-physician choices and preferences. Moreover, we did not have any information on disease activity parameters involving joints and skin, nor any data on side effects that could have warranted medication switch and might have shed more light on the reason for treatment change and relatively low persistency rates.

On the other hand, the strengths of our study lie in our large dataset on PsA patients, providing a real-life image of drug treatment patterns and persistencies as well as predictors for drug persistency.

In summary, our study of a large observational PsA cohort found a relatively low persistence of biologic therapy in rheumatology practices, with female sex and tobacco use having a negative impact on drug persistency, and secukinumab being superior to other biologic agents when indicated at second line of therapy. These findings can improve treatment planning and provide a more efficient allocation of societal economic resources. However, further studies are needed to establish the role and level of anti IL-17 agents in the PsA treatment paradigm and to improve our understanding of the reasons for non-persistence.

List Of Abbreviations

CASPAR, Classification Criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis

cDMARDs/bDMARDs, conventional/biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs

IL-interleukin

PsA, psoriatic arthritis

TNF α , Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate: *The research was reviewed and approved by the local Institutional Review Board at Carmel Medical Center (CMC-0014-14).*

Consent for publication: Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials: All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article.

Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests

Funding: *This research was funded by a grant provided by the Israeli Rheumatology Association.*

Acknowledgements: Not applicable

Authors' contributions: IF performed the statistical analysis; TG, JF and IB reviewed and edited the paper; AH, DZ and AC designed the work; AH, DZ and FT analyzed and interpreted the data, AH and DZ drafted the paper.

References

1. Walsh JA, McFadden ML, Morgan MD, Sawitzke AD, Duffin KC, Krueger GG, et al. **Work productivity loss and fatigue in psoriatic arthritis.** *J Rheumatol.* 2014 Aug;41(8):1670–1674.
2. Orbai A-M, de Wit M, Mease P, Shea JA, Gossec L, Leung YY, et al. **International patient and physician consensus on a psoriatic arthritis core outcome set for clinical trials.** *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2017;76(4):673–680.
3. Ogdie A, Coates LC, Gladman DD. **Treatment guidelines in psoriatic arthritis.** *Rheumatology.* 2020 Mar 1;59(Supplement_1):i37–i46.
4. Baraliakos GL, Kerschbaumer X, de Wit A, McInnes M, Dougados I M, et al. **EULAR recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies: 2019 update.** *Ann Rheum Dis* 2020;79(6):700–12.
5. Vinker S, Fogelman Y, Elhayany A, Nakar S, Kahan E. **Usefulness of electronic databases for the detection of unrecognized diabetic patients.** *Cardiovasc Diabetol.* 2003 Nov 14;2:13.
6. Eder L, Cohen AD, Feldhamer I, Greenberg-Dotan S, Batat E, Zisman D. **The epidemiology of psoriatic arthritis in Israel - a population-based study.** *Arthritis Res Ther.* 2018 Jan 2;20(1):3.

7. Filc D, Davidovich N, Novack L, Balicer RD. **Is socioeconomic status associated with utilization of health care services in a single-payer universal health care system?** *Int J Equity Health*. 2014 Nov 28;13:115.
8. Stober C, Ye W, Guruparan T, Htut E, Clunie G, Jadon D. **Prevalence and predictors of tumour necrosis factor inhibitor persistence in psoriatic arthritis.** *Rheumatology*. 2018 Jan 1;57(1):158–163.
9. Behrens F, Cañete JD, Olivieri I, van Kuijk AW, McHugh N, Combe B. **Tumour necrosis factor inhibitor monotherapy vs combination with MTX in the treatment of PsA: a systematic review of the literature.** *Rheumatology*. 2015 May;54(5):915–926.
10. Mease PJ, Gladman DD, Collier DH, Ritchlin CT, Helliwell PS, Liu L. et al. **Etanercept and methotrexate as monotherapy or in combination for psoriatic arthritis: primary results from a randomized, controlled phase III trial.** *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2019 May 28;71(7):1112–1124.
11. McInnes IB, Mease PJ, Ritchlin CT, Rahman P, Gottlieb AB, Kirkham B, et al. **Secukinumab sustains improvement in signs and symptoms of psoriatic arthritis: 2 year results from the phase 3 FUTURE 2 study.** *Rheumatology*. 2017 Nov 1;56(11):1993–2003.
12. Højgaard P, Glinborg B, Hetland ML, Hansen TH, Lage-Hansen PR, Petersen MH, et al. **Association between tobacco smoking and response to tumour necrosis factor α inhibitor treatment in psoriatic arthritis: results from the DANBIO registry.** *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2015 Dec;74(12):2130–2136.
13. Viguier M, Livideanu C, Beylot-Barry M, Richard M-A, Paul C, Bachelez H, et al. **Observational case series on a group of psoriasis patients who failed to respond to any TNF blockers.** *J Dermatolog Treat*. 2014 Feb;25(1):75–77.
14. Di Lernia V, Ricci C, Lallas A, Ficarelli E. **Clinical predictors of non-response to any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers: a retrospective study.** *J Dermatolog Treat*. 2014 Feb;25(1):73–74.
15. Ogdie A, Palmer JL, Greenberg J, Curtis JR, Harrold LR, Solomon DH. et al. **Predictors of Achieving Remission among Patients with Psoriatic Arthritis Initiating a Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor.** *J Rheumatol*. 2019 Jan 15;46(5):475–482.
16. Harrold LR, Stolshek BS, Rebello S, Collier DH, Mutebi A, Wade SW, et al. **Impact of prior biologic use on persistence of treatment in patients with psoriatic arthritis enrolled in the US Corona registry.** *Clin Rheumatol*. 2017 Apr;36(4):895–901.
17. Perricone CL, Chimenti C, Del Puente MS, Caso A, Peluso P R, et al. **Switching between biological treatments in psoriatic arthritis: A review of the evidence.** *Drugs R D*. 2017 Dec;17(4):509–522.
18. Reddy SM, Crean S, Martin AL, Burns MD, Palmer JB. **Real-world effectiveness of anti-TNF switching in psoriatic arthritis: a systematic review of the literature.** *Clin Rheumatol*. 2016 Dec;35(12):2955–2966.
19. Rotar Ž, Tomšič M, Praprotnik S, Slovenian Rheumatologists. **The persistence of golimumab compared to other tumour necrosis factor- α inhibitors in daily clinical practice for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis: observations from the Slovenian nation-wide longitudinal registry of patients treated with biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs-BioRx.si.** *Clin Rheumatol*. 2019 Feb;38(2):297–305.
20. Saad, Ashcroft AA, Watson DM, Hyrich KD, Noyce KL, Symmons PR DPM, et al. **Persistence with anti-tumour necrosis factor therapies in patients with psoriatic arthritis: observational study from the British Society of Rheumatology Biologics Register.** *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2009 Apr 8;11(2):R52.

21. Palmer JB, Li Y, Herrera V, Liao M, Tran M, Ozturk ZE. **Treatment patterns and costs for anti-TNF α biologic therapy in patients with psoriatic arthritis.** *BMC Musculoskelet Disord.* 2016 Jun 14;17:261.
22. Kearsley-Fleet FKM, Watson L, Packham KD, Contributors Group J, Symmons B-R DPM, et al. **Long-term persistence of TNF-inhibitor treatment in patients with psoriatic arthritis. Data from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register.** *RMD Open.* 2018 Jan 7;4(1):e000596.
23. Walsh JA, Adejoro O, Chastek B, Palmer JB, Hur P. **Treatment Patterns Among Patients with Psoriatic Arthritis Treated with a Biologic in the United States: Descriptive Analyses from an Administrative Claims Database.** *J Manag Care Spec Pharm.* 2018 Jul;24(7):623–631.
24. Jacob L, Chevalier T, Kostev K. **Persistence with biological drugs in patients treated in rheumatology practices in Germany.** *Rheumatol Int.* 2019;39(3):525–531.
25. Fagerli KM, Lie E, van der Heijde D, Heiberg MS, Kalstad S, Rødevand E, et al. **Switching between TNF inhibitors in psoriatic arthritis: data from the NOR-DMARD study.** *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2013 Nov;72(11):1840–1844.
26. Vieira-Sousa E, Eusébio M, Ávila-Ribeiro P, Khmelinskii N, Cruz-Machado R, Martins Rocha T, et al. **Real-world Longterm Effectiveness of Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitors in Psoriatic Arthritis Patients from the Rheumatic Diseases Portuguese Register.** *J Rheumatol.* 2019 Aug 1.
27. Strand V, McInnes I, Mease P, Nash P, Thom H, Kalyvas C. et al. **Matching-adjusted indirect comparison: secukinumab versus infliximab in biologic-naive patients with psoriatic arthritis.** *J Comp Eff Res.* 2019 Feb 26;8(7):497–510.
28. Nash P, McInnes IB, Mease PJ, Thom H, Hunger M, Karabis A, et al. **Secukinumab Versus Adalimumab for Psoriatic Arthritis: Comparative Effectiveness up to 48 Weeks Using a Matching-Adjusted Indirect Comparison.** *Rheumatol Ther.* 2018 Jun;5(1):99–122.
29. Mease P, Choy E, Nash P, Kalyvas C, Hunger M, Pricop L, et al. **Comparative effectiveness of secukinumab and etanercept in biologic-naïve patients with psoriatic arthritis assessed by matching-adjusted indirect comparison.** *Eur J Rheumatol.* 2018 Jul 1;6(3):113–121.
30. McInnes IB, Behrens F, Mease PJ, Kavanaugh A, Ritchlin C, Nash P, et al. **Secukinumab versus adalimumab for treatment of active psoriatic arthritis (EXCEED): a double-blind, parallel-group, randomised, active-controlled, phase 3b trial.** *Lancet.* 2020 May 9;395(10235):1496–1505.
31. Smolen GL, Ramiro JS, de Wit S, Cutolo M, Dougados M M, et al. **European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies: 2015 update.** *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2016 Mar;75(3):499–510.
32. Singh JA, Guyatt G, Ogdie A, Gladman DD, Deal C, Deodhar A, et al. **Special article: 2018 american college of rheumatology/national psoriasis foundation guideline for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis.** *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2019;71(1):5–32.

Figures

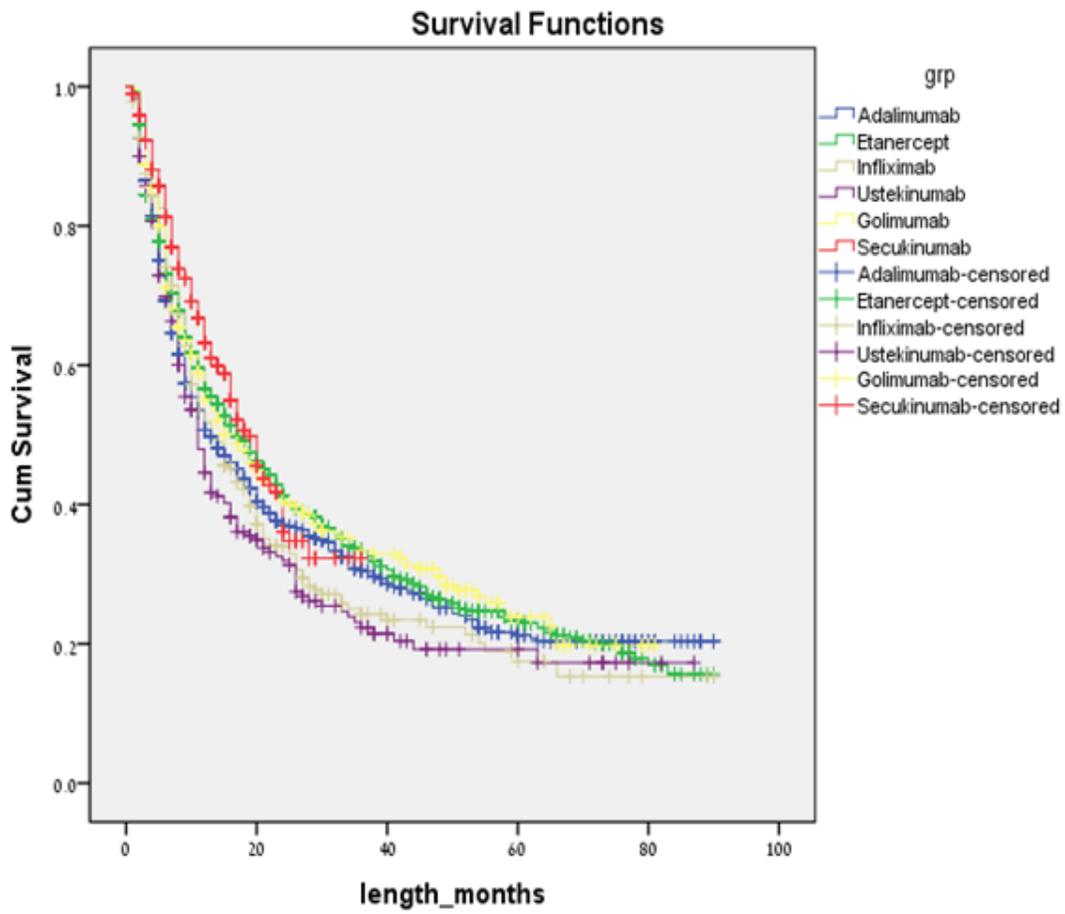


Figure 1

Unadjusted time to non-persistence for all biologics used as all lines of therapy.

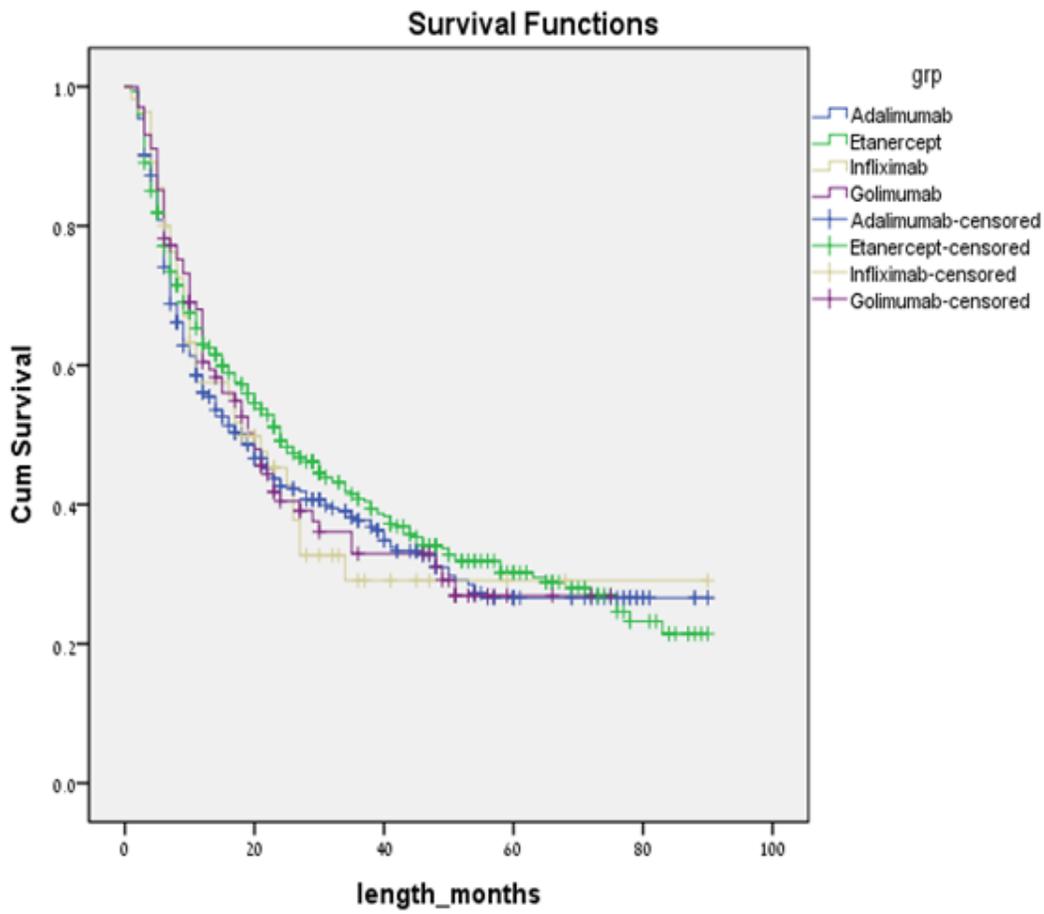


Figure 2

Unadjusted time to non-persistence for biologics used as first lines of therapy

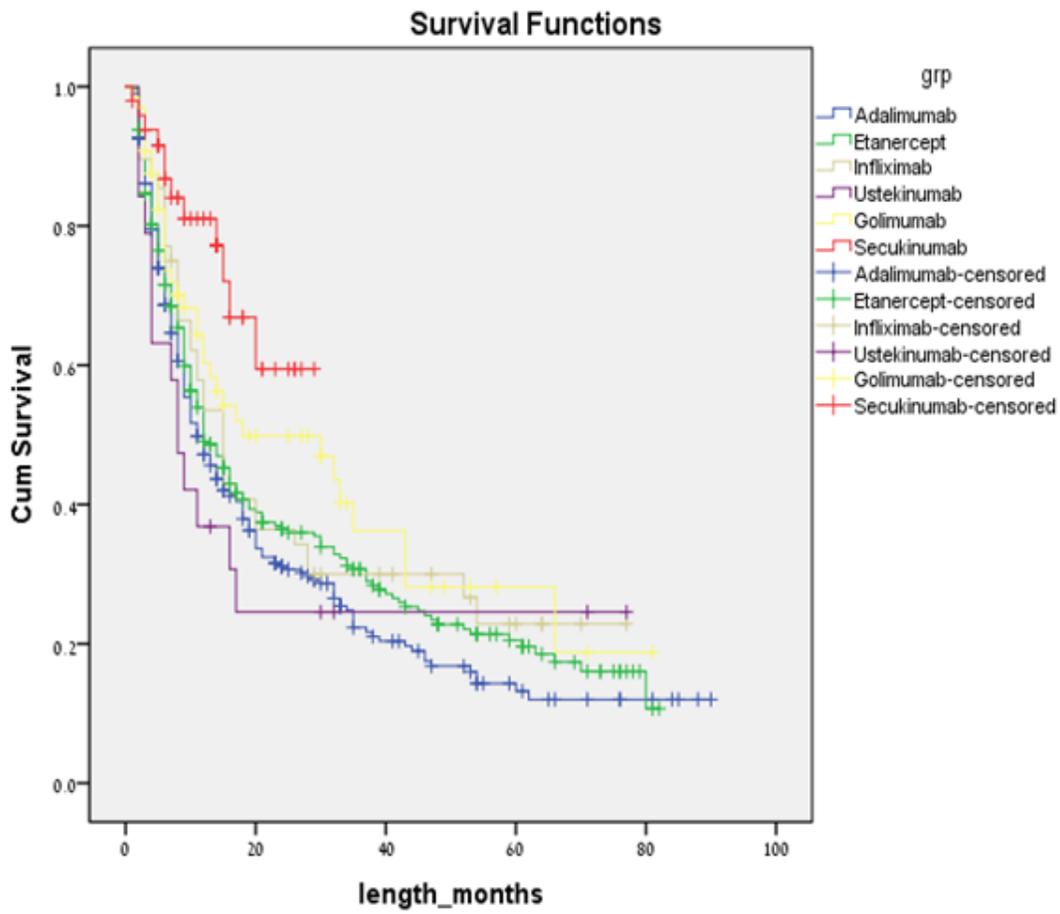


Figure 3

Unadjusted time to non-persistence for biologics used as second line of therapy.