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The risk of urinary tract infections in patients with psoriasis on systemic medications in Biobadaderm registry: a prospective cohort study

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Conflict of interest:

Dr Sahuquillo has served as a consultant and/or paid speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including AbbVie, Celgene, Janssen-Cilag, LEO Pharma, Lilly, Novartis and Pfizer.

Dr Carretero has been reimbursed by Janssen, Abbvie, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD and Celgene for advisory service and conference.

Dr Ferrándiz has served as a consultant and/or paid speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Janssen-Cilag, LEO Pharma, Lilly, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Novartis Pfizer and Almirall.

Dr Rivera acted as consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials as IP for Abbvie, Almirall, Celgene, Janssen, Leo Pharma, Lilly, Novartis, MSD and Pfizer-Wyeth.

Dr Dauden acted as consultant for Abbott, Amgen, Astellas, Centocor Ortho Biotech Inc, Galderma, Glaxo, Jansenn-Cilag, Leo Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD and Celgene, received honoraria form Abbott, Amgen, Janssen-Cilag, Leo Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, Celgene, participated in a speakers bureau for Abbott, Pfizer, MSD and Janssen and received grants from Pfizer, Abbott, Janssen and MSD.

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Dr Alsina gave expert testimony for Merck-Schering Plough, Pfizer, Janssen, Novartis, Leo Pharma, Almirall and Abbott.

Dr Carrascosa has participated as speaker and/or advisor for Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Leo Pharma, Pfizer, MSD, Abbvie, Biogen Amgen.

Dr Llamas acted as a consultant and speaker for Janssen-Cilag, AbbVie, Celgene, Pfizer, Novartis, Lilly, Almirall and Leo-Pharma and has participated in clinical assays.

Dr Ferran has participated as speaker and/or advisor for Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, Abbvie Celgene and Almirall,

Dr Baniandrés acted as a consultant and/or speaker for Janssen-Cilag, AbbVie, Pfizer, Novartis, Lilly and Almirall.

Dr. E. Herrera-Acosta has served as consultant and/or speaker with Leo Pharma, Novartis, Janssen, Lilly, Celgene y Abbvie.

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1 Clinical trials and real-life evidence show that the use of biological treatments in
2 psoriasis patients portends an increased risk of developing infections[1, 2].

3

4 Biobadaderm is a multicentre prospective cohort, with the objective of evaluating
5 the safety of systemic therapy for psoriasis [2]. Once a year, reports are created. In
6 2018, a signal regarding symptomatic urinary tract infection (UTI) was detected.

7

8 Our primary objective was to describe the rates of clinical bacterial UTI in
9 psoriasis patients undergoing systemic treatment compared to those being treated
10 with methotrexate.

11

12 Sixteen hospitals throughout Spain participated. The study period ranged from
13 October 2008 to November 2018. All bacterial UTIs were registered and classified
14 as afebrile UTI (cystitis) and febrile UTI (pyelonephritis and prostatitis) using the
15 MedDRA dictionary. The patients on combination therapy were excluded. We
16 estimated the crude rates of symptomatic bacterial UTI in patients receiving
17 specific systemic drugs and compared them to those treated with methotrexate.
18 Adjusted rate ratios(aRR) were obtained using a robust multilevel Poisson model
19 including age, gender, diabetes status, treatment order, and propensity score (i.e.,
20 including all variables associated with drug selection) for each drug. Specific aRRs
21 were obtained according to gender. Anti-IL17 drugs were analyzed as a group due
22 to low sample size; apremilast and fumaric acid esters were not included.

23 A total of 3,013 patients exposed to systemic drugs were included, with 9,585
24 patients-years of follow-up. The number of patients exposed to each drug is
25 detailed in table 1. In patients exposed to biologics, 91 UTIs were reported, of

26 which only five (5%) were serious (0.74 serious UTIs [95% CI: 0.31-1.78] cases per
27 1000 patient-years). In patients receiving methotrexate treatment, 19 UTIs were
28 reported, of which three (16%) were serious (1.74 [95% CI: 0.56-5.39]). The
29 overall aRR of UTIs between biologics and methotrexate was 1.01 (95% CI: 0.74-
30 1.39). No differences in the risk of serious UTIs between patients exposed to
31 biologics compared to patients treated with methotrexate were observed.

32

33 When gender was taken into account, significant results were limited to women,
34 and aRR showed increased risks of UTIs in women for cyclosporine (only for non-
35 febrile), infliximab, and anti-IL17, and decreased risks for acitretin (Table 1). Most
36 of them were not serious.

37

38 The main limitation of this study is that it assesses a short period of exposure to
39 anti-IL17 and these drugs are evaluated as a single group. The increased risks
40 detected in this study could be due to chance or selection bias, and should be
41 confirmed or disputed by other studies.

42

43 Based on our findings, the use of cyclosporine, infliximab and anti-IL17 could be
44 associated with a higher risk of symptomatic UTI in women. Given the increased
45 risk shown by our results (approximately 20 extra cases per 1000 person-years),
46 an appropriate strategy for women receiving these drugs should be devised,
47 instructing them about warning signs. Only patients who show the warning signs
48 should receive specific testing and treatment, because screening for detection and
49 treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria is only recommended in pregnant women
50 and after high-risk urological surgery [3, 4].

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	Patient-years	All urinary bacterial infections				Afebrile urinary bacterial infections				Febrile urinary bacterial infections			
		Cases	Rate per 1000 p-y (95% CI)	Adjusted RR compared to methotrexate (95% CI)		Cases	Rate per 1000 p-y (95% CI)	Adjusted RR compared to methotrexate (95% CI)		Cases	Rate per 1000 p-y (95% CI)	Adjusted RR compared to methotrexate (95% CI)	
				Men	Women			Men	Women			Men	Women
Methotrexate	1726	19	11.01(7.02-17.25)	Reference	Reference	12	6.95 (3.95-12.24)	Reference	Reference	7	4.05 (1.93-8.51)	Reference	Reference
Acitretin	798	7	8.77(4.18-18.40)	1.35(0.38-4.78)	0.35(0.12-0.98)*	6	7.52 (3.38-16.74)	2.48 (0.65-9.54)	0.35 (0.09-1.33)	1	1.25 (0.18-8.90)	NA	0.38 (0.19-0.77) **
Cyclosporine	310	8	25.78(12.89-51.55)	1.08(0.15-7.56)	5.08(2.40-10.79)***	6	19.34 (8.69-43.04)	NA	6.64 (2.11-20.83) **	2	6.45 (1.61-25.77)	3.30 (0.64-16.93)	2.14 (0.64-7.17)
All biologics	6751	91	13.48(10.98-16.55)	0.98(0.53-1.82)	1.04(0.80-1.36)	76	11.26 (8.99-14.10)	1.16 (0.45-2.95)	1.38 (0.79-2.40)	15	2.22 (1.34-3.69)	0.73 (0.21-2.48)	0.46 (0.17-1.27)
Anti-TNF	3972	48	12.08(9.11-16.03)	1.14(0.66-1.95)	1.01(0.69-1.49)	38	9.57 (6.96-13.15)	1.28 (0.47-3.44)	1.34 (0.73-2.47)	10	2.52 (1.35-4.68)	0.82 (0.20-3.48)	0.52 (0.27-0.98) *
Etanercept	1682	19	11.29(7.20-17.71)	1.16(0.48-2.82)	1.02(0.39-2.68)	17	10.10 (6.28-16.25)	1.86 (0.62-5.63)	1.34 (0.48-3.74)	2	1.19 (0.30-4.75)	NA	0.55 (0.14-2.18)
Adalimumab	1948	23	11.81(7.85-17.77)	1.10(0.55-2.20)	0.74(0.46-1.19)	16	8.21 (5.03-13.41)	0.63 (0.24-1.63)	0.59 (0.26-1.32)	7	3.59 (1.71-7.54)	1.42 (0.38-5.25)	1.04 (0.44-2.46)
Infliximab	342	6	17.55(7.89-39.07)	1.56(0.25-9.73)	5.51(1.08-28.22)*	5	14.63 (6.09-35.14)	0.53 (0-122.82)	7.02 (1.05-47.01) *	1	2.93 (0.41-20.77)	3.39 (0.48-23.88)	NA
⁴ Anti-IL17	466	10	21.48(11.56-39.92)	0.90(0.34-2.40)	3.65(1.44-9.29)**	7	15.03 (7.17-31.54)	NA	2.88 (1.17-7.10) *	3	6.44 (2.08-19.98)	1.51 (0.50-4.57)	10 (2.63-38.00) ***

Ustekinumab	2313	33	14.27(10.14-20.07)	0.91(0.33-2.47)	1.14(0.70-1.87)	31	13.40 (9.43-19.06)	0.92 (0.23-3.67)	1.54 (0.62-3.84)	2	0.86 (0.22-3.46)	0.64 (0.18-2.24)	0.27 (0.05-1.33)
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Tables:

Table 1. Rates and relative risks of urinary bacterial infection in patients with psoriasis treated with systemic therapy

*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001

RR, Rate Ratio; P-Y, Patient-years; CI, Confidence Intervals; NA, Not Available