

**Title**            **Biologics for Psoriasis**

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**Reference**      Technology Review Report-006/2011, [http://www.moh.gov.my/technology\\_reviews/192](http://www.moh.gov.my/technology_reviews/192)

## **Aim**

To assess effectiveness/efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness of biologics in the treatment of mild to moderate psoriasis.

## **Conclusions and results**

The use of biologic agents in moderate to severe psoriasis is effective with infliximab showing most promising results followed by adalimumab. However, safety issues are a concern with the use of biologics. Hence pretreatment assessment and monitoring is warranted. Though the use of biologics, especially the TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitors, appeared to be cost-effective, the results of the economic evaluations conducted, in developed countries such as UK and Europe, may not be transferable to our setting due to resource difference in the healthcare system.

## **Recommendations**

Biologic therapy may be recommended for treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis in patients not responding or intolerant to systemic therapies with prior assessment of individual patients risk to develop adverse reaction. It is imperative for clinicians to report all adverse events encountered with the use of these biologics in psoriasis patients. All adverse events should be monitored by Malaysian Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee (MADRAC). Kindly refer to 'Protocol for Biologics Intervention for Psoriasis 2011, Ministry Of Health' before prescribing biologics for psoriasis patient.

## **Methods**

Electronic databases which include Pubmed, EBSCO Host, Medline, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, HTA Databases, and FDA

website were searched. There was no limitation in the search. The following keywords were used either singly or in combinations: psoriasis, plaque psoriasis, mild-to-moderate, biologic\*, infliximab, adalimumab, etanercept, alefacept, ustekinumab, cost\*, economic, adverse effect, adverse event, safe\*, Tumour necrosis factor blocker, cytokine inhibitor. Critical appraisal of relevant literature was performed and evidence graded according to US/Canadian Preventive Services Task Force.

## **Further research/reviews required**

## **Written by**

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