

The Cost of Psoriasis

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Psoriasis is a common chronic inflammatory skin disease with a prevalence of 2–4% in Northern Europa and the prevalence seems to be increasing. The disease has a major impact on the patients physic and psychic wellbeing but is also a major socio-economic burden. The costs of psoriasis are significant for both the healthcare system and the patients. Estimations of both the direct and indirect cost are difficult and most studies lack a control group. A group from Stockholm lead by Professor Mona Ståhle has together with Pfizer tried to estimate both the direct and indirect cost of psoriasis in a large group of patients with psoriasis from Sweden compared to a control group (1). Furthermore they looked at the impact of cost in patients just started on biologics. The study included patients from both primary care and hospitalized patients with psoriasis and all type of healthcare cost, including e.g. the cost related to comorbidities were calculated. They found that psoriasis is associated with substantial economic burden and the burden increases with need for treatment. Interesting, several months before patients were started on biologic treatment the healthcare cost increased and seemed to decrease after initiation of biologic treatment.



Reference

1. Svedbom A, Dahlén J, Mamolo C, Cappelleri JC, Mallbris L, Petersson IF, Ståhle M. Economic burden of psoriasis and potential cost offsets with biologic treatment: A Swedish register analysis. *Acta Derm Venereol* 2016; 96: 651–657.