

# Continuing Medical Education

## CME: MCQ – 6.

### New treatments in psoriasis.

With a better understanding of the pathogenesis of psoriasis, and the advent of biological production methods for drugs, a range of new treatments are being made possible for psoriasis. These include biological control of several different disease mechanisms, and may provide an important supplement to existing therapies within the foreseeable future.

*Chose the one best answer:*

1. One current therapeutic strategy is to suppress type I autoimmune reaction and/or modulate a type I

response to a type II response. Which of the following lymphokines have shown potential for this therapeutic approach in early trials?

- A. IL-3 ... IL-4
- B. IL-10 ... IL-11
- C. IL-2
- D. IL-8

2. Newer drugs targeting nuclear receptors for hormonal lipids have been introduced for topical treatment. Which of the following drugs does not belong to this group?

- A. Tazarotene
- B. Infliximab
- C. Maxacalcitol
- D. Falecacetriol

Several of the answers to the following questions may be correct. You are asked to identify the correct pattern of these:

- A. Only statement i. is correct.
- B. Statement i, ii and iv are correct
- C. Statement ii and iii are correct
- D. Statement i and iv are correct

3. Which of the following drugs, tested for effect in psoriasis, are primarily aimed at inhibiting T-cells?

- i. Alefacept
- ii. Efalizumab
- iii. PVAC
- iv. Humax-CD4

4. Which of the following drugs, tested for effect in psoriasis, are primarily aimed at type I cytokines?

- v. Etanercept
- vi. Pimecrolimus
- vii. Sirolimus
- viii. Infliximab

Recommended answers (based on Gniadecki R et al. Trends and developments in the pharmacological treatment of psoriasis. Acta Derm Venereol 2002; 82:401-11).  
1: B: IL-10 and IL-11 have been used in trials and shown effect.  
2: B: Infliximab is a TNF-alpha antagonist used in systemic application.  
3: B: PVAC consists of killed Mycobacterium vaccae. Alefacept and Efalizumab have been tested in Phase II trials, Humax-CD4 in a preliminary phase II trial.  
4: D: Etanercept and infliximab have shown potential in the treatment of psoriasis due to their interaction with TNF-alpha. The other drugs are non-specific immunosuppressive drugs, which however may also have effect in psoriasis.