Data Support Adapalene Gel 0.3% for Acne in Adult Women

Differin Gel 0.3% (adapalene, Galderma) is efficacious in reducing acne lesions in adult women and is superior in reducing inflammatory lesions in women compared to vehicle gel, a data analysis presented at the American Academy of Dermatology Summer Meeting found.

The new analysis showed that active treatment reduced inflammatory acne lesions by 61.2 percent, compared with 45.8 percent for vehicle. Total lesion counts were reduced 49.5 percent from baseline in the active treatment group. The most common treatment-related adverse events were skin discomfort and dry skin. There were no reported serious adverse events in either group.

Given the prevalence of adult female acne, dermatologists are eager to learn more about treatment options, observes Diane S. Berson, MD, FAAD, lead author of the meta-analysis. She notes that for many women, acne tends to be more chronic, though perhaps not as severe, compared to acne in adult men.

"Differin Gel 0.3% has a little more efficacy but about the same tolerability profile of the 0.1% formulation," Dr. Berson says, making it a suitable option for adults. Dr. Berson points out that the analysis showed good tolerability and some acne improvement in the patients using the aqueous vehicle, which is formulated with two emollient ingredients. Based on these findings, "the vehicle is what makes this a beneficial agent for adult women," she says.

Modernizing Medicine and Miraca Life Sciences Partner to Create EMR and Pathology Lab Integration

Modernizing Medicine, which created the Electronic Medical Assistant (EMA), a cloud-based, specialty-specific electronic medical record (EMR) system, and Miraca Life Sciences (MLS), a specialist in the development and commercialization of subspecialty expert anatomic pathology services, announced that they are partnering to develop an enhanced diagnostic data bridge. As a result, EMA dermatologists and MLS pathologists will be able to share additional diagnostic information, which can help the pathologist create a more timely, informed and accurate analysis.

Agents Receive FDA Approval to Treat Psoriatic Arthritis in Adults

The FDA approved Stelara (ustekinumab, Janssen) alone or in combination with methotrexate for the treatment of adult patients (18 years or older) with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA). The approval was supported by findings from two pivotal Phase III trials (PSUMMIT I and PSUMMIT II).

Also approved recently for the treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis is UCB’s Cimzia (certolizumab pegol). The approval was based on data from the RAPID-PsA study, an ongoing, Phase III trial designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol in patients with active and progressive adult onset psoriatic arthritis. Patients treated with Cimzia 200mg every other week demonstrated greater reduction in radiographic progression compared with placebo-treated patients at Week 24. Treatment with Cimzia also resulted in improvement in skin manifestations in patients with PsA.

Study Shows Hydrating Effects of Clocortolone pivalate Cream 0.1%

Clocortolone pivalate cream 0.1% improves skin surface hydration better than hydrocortisone butyrate lotion 0.1% or hydrocortisone butyrate lipocream 0.1% and reduces TEWL as much as hydrocortisone butyrate lipocream 0.1%, new data suggest. Findings, presented by Leon Kiricik, MD in a poster at the Fall Clinical Dermatology Conference this month, show that the mid-potency steroid formulation decreased TEWL better than non-treatment or treatment with hydrocortisone lotion, while TEWL scores for clocortolone cream were similar to those for hydrocortisone lipocream at hours 1, 2, and 4.
Patients (n=18) were female volunteers, 23-55 years of age, with no skin conditions other than dry skin on the volar forearms. Four sites on the forearm were dry shaved with a disposable razor on Day 1. On Day 2, Evaporator and Corneometer measures were taken (Baseline), and the three study treatments were randomly applied, one to each of the four sites. The remaining site served as control. Repeat measures were taken hourly. Mean capacitance was statistically significantly higher for clocortolone pivalate than for either hydrocortisone formulation or control sites at all time points. In fact, at two-hours, skin surface hydration with clocortolone pivalate was similar to that for normal skin.

Adalimumab Found Effective for Hidradenitis Suppurativa

Results from a post-hoc analysis of an investigational Phase II study found that Humira (adalimumab, AbbVie) induced significant response in adult patients with moderate to severe hidradenitis suppurativa (HS). Researchers used the HS-Physician Global Assessment (HS-PGA) to evaluate clinical response to Humira. At 16 weeks, 9.6 percent of patients treated every other week, and 17.6 percent of patients treated weekly achieved an HS-PGA of clear, minimal, or mild, with at least a two-grade improvement relative to baseline. The data were presented at the 22nd Congress of the European Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) in Istanbul.

Medicis Announces Winners of “I Acanya Succeed” Scholarships

Medicis, a division of Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC, announced the winners of its first “I Acanya Succeed” scholarship program, an education-based initiative that provides scholarships to college students who have taken an active role in managing their acne. Three winners, representing three regions of the US, were selected to receive up to $48,000 each toward college tuition after submitting a compelling video essay depicting how their personal struggles with acne were helped by the care of a dermatologist. For more information or to view the winning essays: www.acanyascholarship.com.

FDA Accepts sBLA for Xolair in Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria

The FDA recently accepted a supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA) for subcutaneous use of Genentech’s Xolair (omalizumab) in people with Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria (CIU) who remain symptomatic despite treatment with H1-antihistamine therapy at approved doses. The filing was primarily based on two Phase III studies (ASTERIA I and ASTERIA II) evaluating patients with moderate-to-severe CIU who remained symptomatic despite treatment with H1-antihistamine therapy at approved doses. Jointly developed by Genentech and Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Xolair (omalizumab) is currently indicated for patients 12 years of age and older with moderate to severe persistent allergic asthma caused by year-round allergens in the air. The FDA action date is second quarter of 2014.

Ellzey Coding Solutions Introduces ICD-10 for Dermatology Manual

Ellzey Coding Solutions, Inc. has released an ICD-10 coding manual specifically for dermatologists. The 2014 ICD-10 for Dermatology program can be used to prepare dermatologists and staff with what they need to know about ICD-10-CM for the Oct. 1, 2014 transition deadline. The manual is a dermatology-specific guide that teaches ICD-10 diagnosis coding using real-world dermatology examples. The 100-page guide covers the history of ICD-10, reviews all elements and rules of ICD-10, and teaches how to code in ICD-10 using four simple steps. The set costs $269. For more information: www.ellzeycodingssolutions.com.

Rosacea Concierge Offers Patient Support and Resources

Bayer HealthCare launched Rosacea Concierge (www.rosaceaconcierge.com), a new website that includes information on rosacea in the form of video tutorials from a team of experts, each offering perspective and recommendations covering many aspects of living with rosacea.

Elevator Pitch Series Coming

The Medical Entrepreneur Symposium is introducing a one day event on Saturday December 7 in Delray Beach. The “Elevator Pitch Sessions” will be geared towards helping physicians learn how to fund their next venture. For information: www.TheMedicalEntrepreneur.com.

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