



International group seeks to close gaps in psoriasis research

April 2, 2014

To improve outcomes for the treatment of psoriasis, an international group of stakeholders has developed an initiative to gather more treatment data about the disease. The progress of the initiative was reviewed at the AAD Annual Meeting March 24 during “Research Gaps in Psoriasis: Opportunities for Future Studies and Development of New Outcome Measures for Clinical Trials” (F156).



Included in the session was a presentation by Mark Lebwohl, MD, on gaps treatment of PSO and PSA for systemic therapy.

“We need outcome measures that are useful in clinic settings and satisfy the needs not only of physicians and regulators, but also payers and patients,” said Alice B. Gottlieb, MD, PhD, director of the session, which featured seven presentations about psoriasis research.

“The current outcome measures we have may not be helpful in distinguishing which drugs add value. Too often dermatologic issues are viewed by payers and regulators as largely a cosmetic problem and not of equal severity to other problems,” said Dr. Gottlieb, founder and chairman of the board of the International Dermatology Outcome Measures (IDEOM) committee that has been organized to address these issues.

IDEOM uses a model for rheumatology research developed by OMERACT (Outcome Measures in Rheumatoid Arthritis), but adds patient input and clinically useful outcome measures that can be easily generated and entered into electronic medical records, she said.

Presentations at the session discussed information gaps in:

- Genetics and pathophysiology that keep researchers from determining what initiates the entire immunologic process of psoriasis
- Comorbidities
- Sub-populations, and in particular the pathogenesis and genetics of subpopulations
- Treatment of PSO and PSA for systemic therapy
- Phototherapy and the effect of health care economics

IDEOM had its first meeting in January 2013 and will meet later this year in Rome to discuss further research efforts.

“We hope to generate a final list of aspects of the disease that the stakeholders agree to measure,” said Dr. Gottlieb, chair and dermatologist in chief at Tufts Medical Center and Harvey B. Ansell professor of dermatology at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston. “The need for outcomes data that are practical to use in community practice and satisfy the needs of all stakeholders is urgent because payers in the United States are demanding them.”

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Tweeting about the meeting

▶ The AADA is asking @GovPritzker to please sign HB 3113, which is important legislation that requires insurers in IL...
twitter.com/i/web/status/11344
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▶ In response to the EWG’s sunscreen report, the AAD issued a statement reminding the public that #sunscreen remains...
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