

IDEOM: International Dermatology Outcome Measures – Proceedings from the First Meeting

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INTRODUCTION

Psoriasis is one of the most prevalent and studied immune-mediated diseases and has benefited from considerable recent advances in treatment, but it remains largely undertreated. Access is the major obstacle in optimal psoriasis care. Payers and regulatory agencies often view the disease as a skin disorder and patients' needs as purely cosmetic, in part due to psoriasis outcome measures that fail to take into account all aspects and complications of the disease.

Current outcome measures remain purely objective and simply assess the severity of skin disease. While these may be appropriate for clinical research and useful for regulatory agencies, they are inadequate and impractical for clinical practice. Furthermore, they fail to address other aspects of psoriatic disease, such as quality of life, cost efficacy, psoriatic arthritis, nail disease, and serious comorbidities such as metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease. Outcome measures do not include valuable perspectives from patients, third party payers, and practicing physicians. The development of all-encompassing yet practical outcome measures that are useful for research as well as clinical practice is imperative as the quality and value of healthcare is increasingly driven by outcomes and economics.

IDEOM's aim is to define outcome measures in dermatology, starting with psoriasis, based on the process and methods already developed by OMERACT (Outcome Measures in Rheumatology). The inaugural meeting of IDEOM took place on Jan. 4-5, 2013, in Boston and was attended by dermatologists, rheumatologists, pharmaceutical industry representatives, payers, patients, and regulatory agencies. The meeting was highlighted by presentations that introduced the concepts and

definitions employed by OMERACT, perspectives from various stakeholders in psoriasis disease, and exercises by which a preliminary list of aspects core to the disease was formulated.

The ultimate objective of the meeting was to create a set of standardized dermatologic outcome measures that would capture clinically meaningful changes for the management of patients in clinical trials and also translate into clinical practice. The initiative is supported by the National Psoriasis Foundation and grants from Advancing Innovation in Dermatology, Janssen Pharmaceutical Inc., and Pfizer, Inc.

HISTORY AND CONCEPTS

Dr. Maarten Boers, one of the founders of OMERACT, presented a brief history and overview of the organization and defined key concepts necessary for the development of core sets to use in outcome measures.

OMERACT, which stood for Outcome Measures in Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Trials, is an international network conceived in 1992 to improve outcome measurement in rheumatoid arthritis. The initiative began with the discovery that European and North American clinical trials studying rheumatoid arthritis were employing different measures and endpoints – more than 25 outcome measures existed for rheumatoid arthritis alone. They lacked consistency, contained potential for bias, reported outcomes selectively, and had low practicality and relevance to users, making meta-analysis of international clinical trials very difficult.

This prompted international collaboration to develop a consensus of core sets of outcome measures that could be utilized in all trials.

