Management of HS by Dermatologists and Rheumatologists: Findings from a Large Contemporaneous Real-World Longitudinal Database

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Background

Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) is typically diagnosed in dermatology specialty clinics, but management of patients with biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARD) and nonbiologic DMARDs (nDMARD) is also performed in rheumatology specialty clinics. The utilization of DMARDs in routine clinical practice needs further study.

Methods

The OM1 platform links structured and unstructured dermatologic data from DataDerm, the clinical data registry of the AAD, and other data sources. bDMARD and nDMARD prescribing patterns, as well as Hurley Scores, were evaluated in a large cohort of patients with HS treated by dermatologists and/or rheumatologists between January 2013 and June 2022.

Objective

To describe the management of HS patients treated with nDMARD and/or bDMARD in routine clinical practice based on specialty practice.

Results

A total of 57,016 patients with HS were included. Of these, 4,961 had notes from a rheumatologist, 40,138 had notes from a dermatologist and 11,917 had notes from both. Overall, 8,955 patients (15.7%) received a bDMARD. More patients co-managed by a dermatologist and rheumatologist received a bDMARD [2,413 (20.3%)] than either specialty alone [rheumatologist, 693 (14.0%); dermatologist [5,849 (14.6%)] (Figure 1). A larger proportion of patients managed or co-managed by a dermatologist received an oral tetracycline compared to those managed by a rheumatologist (~52% v 40%). Patients managed by a dermatologist were younger. (Table 1)

Main Findings

Dermatologists and rheumatologists prescribe a bDMARD therapy for HS with similar frequency, although patients co-managed are more likely to receive bDMARDs. A real-world data cohort analysis can be used to illustrate therapeutic usage patterns in different specialties.

Figure 1. Management of HS with bDMARD in Routine Clinical Practice
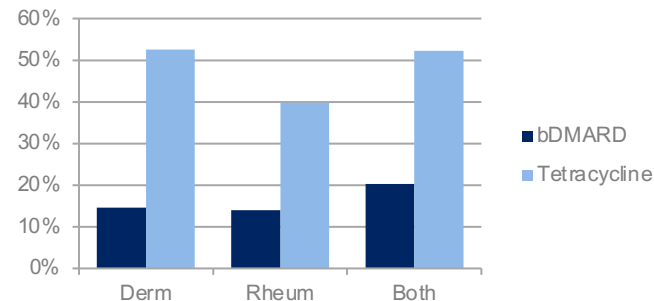
Table 1. Characteristics of Patients with HS

Characteristic		Derm (N=40,138)	Rheum (N=4,961)	Both (N=11,917)
Age	Mean (SD)	36.9 (15.2)	42.1 (14.6)	40.6 (14.7)
	Median (IQR)	35.0 (25.0, 48.0)	42.0 (31.0, 53.0)	40.0 (29.0, 52.0)
Sex	Female	32139 (80.1%)	4037 (81.4%)	9913 (83.2%)
Race	White	19848 (49.4%)	2664 (53.7%)	6141 (51.5%)
	Black	8074 (20.1%)	1093 (22.0%)	2280 (19.1%)
	Unknown	6307 (15.7%)	831 (16.8%)	2165 (18.2%)
	No data	5041 (12.6%)	314 (6.3%)	1147 (9.6%)