



PSORIASIS

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE OF SECUKINUMAB USE IN PSORIASIS: A MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE

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**Introduction:** Secukinumab, a fully human anti-interleukin-17A monoclonal antibody, was first introduced in Malaysia in 2016. Due to the high cost of the medication, its use in Malaysia is limited.

**Objective:** The aim of this study is to determine the effectiveness of Secukinumab in the real life setting and to determine its adverse effects in the Malaysian patients.

**Materials and Methods:** This retrospective study examined 7 patients administered Secukinumab in Subang Jaya Medical Centre between January 2017 and May 2018. Patients demographic and clinical data was extracted and analysed.

**Results:** The mean age at presentation was 47.6 years with 85.7% males. All the patients failed conventional systemic therapy and phototherapy, with 71.4% biologic naive. One month into treatment, 85.7% had total clearance while one patient had 50% improvement. The latter patient has had 4 different biologics therapy before. All the 6 patients with total clearance had recurrence (mean 7.5% of baseline) after 6 months of treatment. All the recurrence were seen on the legs. Two (28.6%) patients required addition of low dose methotrexate to control the lesions. One patient had chronic diarrhea, loss of appetite and weight for the first 3 months of treatment requiring temporary cessation. Recommencement with loading dose after 6 weeks resulted in only 30% improvement after 3 months of therapy. One patient reported burning sensation of the lower limbs for first 2 months of treatment.

**Conclusion:** Secukinumab is an effective treatment for severe difficult-to-treat psoriasis. Total clearance is not long lasting sometimes requiring addition of oral methotrexate. Chronic diarrhea is a rare but real complication of Secukinumab.

