

PsA

Psoriatic Arthritis Treatment Guidance for Biologic Drugs

INITIATING a Biologic requires

Active and progressive PsA

- 3+ tender joints
- **AND** 3+ swollen joints
- **AND** inadequate response to 2+ standard DMARDs
- The most cost effective drug must be used first

CONTINUATION of a Biologic requires

Adequate PsARC response requires improvement of at least **TWO** criteria at the end of the initiation period

- **ONE** of these must be **EITHER** joint swelling **OR** joint tenderness
- No worsening of any of the other PsARC criteria
- Patients with an PASI 75 (skin) response but inadequate PsARC (joint) response must be reviewed by a dermatologist for treatment to continue

IL-23 and IL-17 target different sites within the same pathway

Funding

Must be applied for via Blueteq for all Shropshire or T+W patients

- Initial funding is for initiation period detailed below
- Continuation funding provides continuous approval until the drug is ineffective / not tolerated

Special Groups for Consideration

Elderly / Frail – consider Apremilast – minimal immunosuppressive effect / infection risk

None plaque psoriasis – biologics less effective – consider dermatology referral

Sequencing

- **1st line** - Adalimumab biosimilar or Secukinumab if a TNF is contraindicated.
- **2nd line** – Secukinumab
- **3rd line** – Tofacitinib + Methotrexate / if predominantly skin disease consider referral to dermatology
- **4th line+** – Any alternative licenced treatment

PsARC Criteria

- Number of swollen joints
- Number of tender joints
- Patient global assessment
- Physician global assessment

Target	Drug	Licensed for Monotherapy	NICE guidance I drug	Initiation Period	Comments / Conditions
TNF α	Adalimumab	☑	TA199	12 weeks	
	Etanercept	☑	TA199	12 weeks	NOT routinely used for skin psoriasis. Loss of efficacy
	Certolizumab	☑	TA445	12 weeks	NOT licenced for skin psoriasis
	Golimumab	☑	TA220	12 weeks	
	Infliximab	☒	TA199	12 weeks	With Methotrexate ONLY unless intolerance or contraindication
IL-23	Ustekinumab	☑	TA340	24 weeks	Higher dose available for overweight patients (same cost)
IL-17	Secukinumab	☑	TA445	12 weeks	
	Ixekizumab	☑	TA537	16 weeks	
JAK inhibitor	Tofacitinib	☒	TA543	12 weeks	With Methotrexate ONLY

PDE4 inhibitor	Apremilast	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA433	16 weeks	
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