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Complete List of Authors:	<p>Pogácsás, Lilla; University of Debrecen, Division of Allergology, Department of Dermatology Borsi, András; Janssen Cilag Hungary Ltd, Department of Health Economics, Market Access and Reimbursement Takács, Péter; Janssen Cilag Hungary Ltd, Real World Evidence Centre of Excellence Remenyik, Eva; University of Debrecen, Department of Dermatology Kemeny, Lajos; University of Szeged, Department of Dermatology and Allergology Kárpáti, Sarolta; Semmelweis University, Department of Dermatovenerology and Dermatooncology Holló, Péter; Semmelweis University, Department of Dermatovenerology and Dermatooncology Wikonkál, Norbert; Semmelweis University, Department of Dermatovenerology and Dermatooncology Gyulai, Rolland; University of Pécs, Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Oncodermatology Károlyi, Zsuzsánna; Semmelweis Hospital, Department of Dermatology Rakonczai, Pál; Healthware Consulting Ltd., Department of Research and Analysis Balázs, Tamás; Healthware Consulting Ltd., Department of Research and Analysis Szegedi, Andrea; University of Debrecen, Division of Dermatological Allergology, Department of Dermatology,</p>
Keywords:	biological therapy, comparison, hazard ratios, persistence, predictors, psoriasis

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Long-term drug survival and predictor analysis of the whole psoriatic patient population on biological therapy in Hungary

Lilla Pogácsás^{1,2}, András Borsi³, Péter Takács⁴, Éva Remenyik², Lajos Kemény⁵, Sarolta Kárpáti⁶, Péter Holló⁶, Norbert Wikonkál⁶, Rolland Gyulai⁷, Zsuzsanna Károlyi⁸, Pál Rakonczai⁹, Tamás Balázs⁹, Andrea Szegedi^{1,2}

¹Division of Dermatological Allergology, ²Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

³Department of Health Economics, Market Access and Reimbursement, Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary

⁴Real World Evidence Centre of Excellence, Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary

⁵Department of Dermatology and Allergology, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

⁶Department of Dermatovenerology and Dermatocology, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

⁷Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Oncodermatology, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

⁸Department of Dermatology, Semmelweis Hospital, Miskolc, Hungary

⁹Department of Research and Analysis Healthcare Consulting Ltd., Budapest, Hungary

Correspondence:

Andrea Szegedi

Division of Dermatological Allergology, Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, Hungary, 4032 Nagyerdei krt. 98., Debrecen, Hungary, aszegedi@med.unideb.hu, telephone and fax number: +36 52 255204, +36 52 255736

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Abstract

Persistence is an important component of therapeutic success, which depends on a variety of factors. Persistence measured under optimal conditions during clinical trials does not necessarily coincide with persistence observed in the real-world settings.

The aim of the present study was to compare persistence rate of TNF-alpha inhibitors and interleukin 12/23 inhibitor in all psoriasis patients in Hungary, as well as to analyze the predictors of persistence. Data collected from 1263 patients over a period of 46 months were subjected to a retrospective analysis. Drug survival rate has been calculated according to Kaplan-Meier analysis and Cox regression was used to study the predictors.

The overall persistence rate for the 4 biologicals exceeded 60% after 3 years. The persistence rate of ustekinumab at 3 years was 67.83%, which was superior compared to that of the TNF-alpha inhibitors, where the mean persistence rate was shown to be 50.76% ($p < 0.05$). Male patients showed significantly higher persistence than females (HR = 0.76, $p < 0.05$ CI: 0.63, 0.92). Age, therapy naïve status and use of concomitant MTX did not have significant effect on drug survival. Persistence rate of ustekinumab was significantly higher than that of TNF-alpha inhibitors, and among predictors, only male gender influenced persistence significantly.

Key words: biological therapy, comparison, hazard ratios, persistence, predictors, psoriasis

Introduction

Psoriasis is a common, chronic, immune-mediated skin disease. The disease and the comorbidities that frequently develop during its course not only impact the quality of life negatively, but also worsen life expectancy [1,2]. Epidemiological studies have shown that psoriasis patients have shorter life expectancy, particularly those who develop cardiovascular comorbidities [1]. Even though the disease is currently not curable, there are a number of therapeutic options which ensure a symptom-free status, although requires a long-term, often life-long treatment [3,4]. Optimal drug survival is fundamental in the management of psoriasis and comorbidities [5].

Drug survival, i.e. persistence, is a comprehensive measure of therapeutic success, which depends on a variety of factors, including efficacy, safety, tolerability and patient satisfaction [5]. Suboptimal persistence is a common and complex problem among patients with chronic diseases, including psoriasis [6, 7, 8]. Frequent switches between therapies and clinical research aiming to develop new therapeutic options to address persistence issues both confirm this [6]. An important breakthrough was the development of biological therapies, which became available for the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis. Biological therapies that are now widely available for psoriasis patients and include the TNF- α inhibitor adalimumab, infliximab, etanercept, the IL-12/23 inhibitor ustekinumab, as well as the IL-17 inhibitor secukinumab and ixekizumab.

Drug survival rate of biologicals seems to be better compared to local and conventional systemic therapies [9]. Persistence measured under optimal (standardized) conditions in prescreened, highly motivated patient populations, using tight protocols and independent investigators during clinical trials does not necessarily coincide with the drug survival of therapies prescribed in the real-world settings [10,11]. There are studies on the short-term persistence of biological therapies used in psoriasis, however, very limited comparative evidence is available on the long-term persistence of biological therapies used in the real-world settings [12]. The objectives of this study were to analyze the characteristics of all psoriasis patients treated with any of the biological therapies currently marketed in Hungary (adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, ustekinumab), to compare long-term drug survival of such therapies in the real-world settings, and also to assess the impact of additional factors, like patient age, gender, biological therapy naïve status or the use of methotrexate (MTX) on drug survival.

Methods

Patient enrollment

The data source for this retrospective analysis was the database of the Hungarian National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), which ensured the comparative analysis of all relevant data collected in the real-world settings. NHIF's database covers healthcare data of the entire Hungarian population (nearly 10 million people) and allows identifying all patients in Hungary with a record of any reimbursed drug prescription and provides non-identified patient data on healthcare services and medical outcomes. Based on the available data provided by NHIF, it was possible to analyze patients' age and gender, onset of disease, the collected data of in- and outpatient care and previous therapies. As the NHIF database includes PASI and DLQI scores of psoriasis patients only since February 2012, PASI and DLQI scores were obtained from the registries of participating university centers instead of the NHIF database. In Hungary patients suffering from psoriasis are eligible for biologic treatment in case of severe disease (PASI \geq 15 or BSA \geq 10 or DLQI \geq 10) and documented intolerance or contraindication of standard systemic treatments. Hungarian Guideline on Psoriasis Therapies is based on and synchronized with the European S3 Psoriasis Guideline in accordance with the financing protocol of the NHIF [13].

All psoriasis patients, who started at least one biological therapy in Hungary, within the 46-months study period from 1 June, 2010 to 1 April, 2014, were enrolled in this study. Data of 1574 treatment episodes of 1263 patients were analyzed (since some patients received more than one biological therapy over the study period, the number of treatment episodes exceeded the number of patients).

Treatment discontinuation was defined by the occurrence of any of the following events: termination (no more prescription) or reinduction of the biological therapy (at least 180 days pause of biological therapy until the next prescription¹), or switching to a different biological

¹ Sensitivity analysis was carried out in order to identify the most appropriate gap length for treatment discontinuation. After a 180 day gap in the biological treatment there were only very limited number of patients who continued on the same treatment with no other biological treatment in between. These cases were considered as reinduction of biological therapy.

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3 therapy. There were several reasons of treatment discontinuation however this kind of data were
4 not captured in the NHIF registry. Since the authors have used the database of the NHIF no
5 information was available on the reason of therapy discontinuation. Data were censored for
6 patients where death of any cause occurred over the study period.
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10 11 12 13 14 **Statistical methods applied**

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17 Kaplan-Meier survival curve was used for the comparative analysis of drug survival. Cox
18 proportional hazard model was applied to analyze the impact of patient age, gender, biological
19 therapy naïve status and additional MTX therapy on drug survival. In order to compare patients'
20 baseline characteristics, conservative WALD test was used. ANOVA test, i.e. two-factor variance
21 analysis was used to compare PASI and DLQI scores of treated patients as these are continuous
22 variables. Mean PASI and DLQI scores were calculated using data collected from 641 patients
23 treated by the 4 university centers.
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35 **Results**

36 37 38 **Patients' baseline characteristics**

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42 Data collected from a total number of 1263 patients were analyzed. Demographic data of patients
43 are shown in *Table 1*.

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45 Although the vast majority of the enrolled patients, (n=972, 76.96%) received only one biological
46 therapy over the study period, 18.69% (n=236) and 4.35% (n=55) of the patients were
47 administered 2 and 3 or more biological therapies, respectively. Since certain patients could have
48 received several biological therapies due to the therapeutic switches, the number of treatment
49 episodes (1574) exceeded the total patient number. All further data will refer to treatment
50 episodes.
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3 Patients' characteristics were also analyzed and compared between subgroups receiving different
4 biological therapies (*Table 2*). The most frequently administered therapies were adalimumab and
5 ustekinumab (n=491 and n=487, respectively), followed by etanercept (n=330), and infliximab
6 (n=266). The analysis of each therapeutic groups showed that the distribution by gender, age and
7 additional MTX usage was comparable among the different therapeutic groups, however, the
8 ratio of biological therapy naïve patients was significantly different between the infliximab and
9 adalimumab groups as well as between the ustekinumab and TNF-alpha inhibitors groups
10 (p<0.05). *Table 2* shows side-by-side comparison of data of various treatment groups comparing
11 patient age, gender, additional MTX therapy, and biological therapy naïve status. Possible
12 inhomogeneities in different treatment groups were handled by using all of these 4 grouping
13 variables as covariates in the fitted Cox models, hence the findings on drug survival analysis
14 were not impacted by them. The comparison of PASI (p=0.18) and DLQI (p=0.50) scores
15 showed no significant differences among the 4 subgroups using different biological therapies.
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33 **Drug survival of biological therapies**

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37 The persistence was calculated by using the Kaplan-Meier method, and illustrated as a survival
38 curve (*Figure 1*). The results of the database analysis showed that the drug survival rate of
39 biological therapies in psoriasis patients is high as a whole, since the overall survival rates are
40 79.70%, 68.52%, and 60.75% in the first, second, and third year of therapy, respectively.
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43 The cumulative data of the 3 TNF-alpha inhibitors showed that drug survival probability was
44 73.28% in the first year, which dropped to 60.22% in the second year to decrease as low as
45 50.76% in the third year.
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49 Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of the individual TNF-alpha inhibitors showed that drug survival
50 of etanercept was 71.96% in the first year, which dropped to 60.03% one year later to reach
51 49.49% after the third year. Drug survival of adalimumab and infliximab was 68.98% and
52 70.92% in the first year, which dropped to 58.13% and 49.79% one year later to reach 51.95%
53 and 36.26% after the third year respectively. The comparison of the drug survival rates of the 3
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3 TNF-alpha inhibitors showed that adalimumab had the highest probability of patients staying on
4 the therapy for three consecutive years, although based on Cox model results no significant
5 difference among the 3 therapies could be detected.
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9 Drug survival rate of ustekinumab was 86.50% in the first year, 74.17% in the second year, and
10 67.83% after the third year. The comparison of drug survival rates of ustekinumab and TNF-
11 alpha inhibitors showed that the persistence of ustekinumab was significantly higher if
12 persistence was compared head-to-head with the TNF-alpha inhibitors ($p < 0.05$), and this
13 difference also persisted if ustekinumab was compared to the cumulative data of the 3 TNF-alpha
14 inhibitors ($p < 0.05$).
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20 21 **Predictors of biological survival**

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25 The Cox regression analysis of the impact of predictors such as patient age, gender, biological
26 therapy naïve status and additional MTX use on persistence is shown in *Figure 2*. The analysis of
27 all biological therapies together revealed that the probability of staying on the therapy was
28 significantly higher in male patients than in female patients ($p < 0.05$, CI: 0.63, 0.92). Therapy
29 naïve status, older age and the use of MTX all decreased the risk of dropping out of therapy,
30 although the impact was not significant (*Figure 2*).
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34 The analysis of the cumulative data of all TNF-alpha inhibitor therapies revealed that the impact
35 of patient gender was significant on drug survival: the risk of discontinuing the therapy was 0.71
36 times lower for male patients compared with female patients. (HR=0.71, $p < 0.05$, CI: 0.58, 0.87).
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39 The analysis of the individual therapy groups revealed the following: male gender had a
40 favorable impact on the persistence of adalimumab (HR=0.73, $p < 0.05$ CI: 0.54, 0.99) and
41 infliximab (HR=0.71, $p < 0.05$, CI: 0.49, 1) but did not influence the persistence of etanercept.
42 Patients over 40 years on etanercept showed a significantly better persistence on the drug than
43 patients younger than 40 years of age (HR=0.57, $p < 0.05$, CI: 0.4, 0.81). None of the investigated
44 predictors had a significant impact on drug survival of ustekinumab.
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52 53 **Discussion**

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3 Suboptimal persistence was identified as a significant drawback in the management of psoriatic
4 patients, which considerably hinders successful therapy, and can result in therapy discontinuation
5 and increased treatment costs [6,7]. No conclusive findings have been reached so far regarding
6 the long-term drug survival rates of biological therapies in psoriasis and predictors of their
7 persistence. This study is the first long-term study performed in Hungary on the whole psoriatic
8 patient population treated with biologicals, to analyze the drug survival of all available biological
9 therapies and to investigate predictors of persistence in the real-life settings. A further advantage
10 of this study is that this is the first comprehensive analysis on this topic in the literature using the
11 database of the NHIF of a given country.

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14 The analysis of the present study population showed that adalimumab and ustekinumab were
15 administered to almost equal numbers of patients, while infliximab and etanercept were also used
16 in identical proportions, although less commonly than the first two agents. Since all four
17 biological therapies can be used under the same circumstances in Hungary, the choice of drug
18 depended mostly on dermatologists' preferences. The comparison of the subgroups receiving
19 different biological therapies revealed that although there were certain differences among the 4
20 therapy groups in terms of patients' biological therapy naïve status, ultimately this factor didn't
21 prove to have statistically meaningful effect on drug persistence rate or on predictor analysis,
22 since the statistical methods have addressed this issue. At the same time, no significant
23 differences were found in terms of PASI and DLQI scores across the subgroups of patients on
24 different biologicals.

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27 The available literature has already shown, that biological therapies used in psoriasis have
28 superior drug survival rates compared to the rates seen with conventional systemic therapies [9].
29 Nevertheless, until recently there was only a lack of data obtained on large patient population
30 treated for long time with TNF-alpha inhibitors and IL-12/23 inhibitor in the real-life settings [11,
31 14]. *Table 3* summarizes all the studies published so far, where data were collected from large
32 patient population of 2 or more centers, the follow-up period was at least one year, and the
33 authors compared at least 3 or more biological therapies. The list includes 5 prospective registry-
34 based studies and 3 retrospective studies [5,11,15,16,17,18,19]. *Table 3* shows, that those studies
35 which included ustekinumab have found drug survival of ustekinumab superior to the drug
36 survival of TNF-alpha inhibitors. The largest study was published by Menter et al. analyzing
37 data of 4000 patients taken from the PSOLAR registry, and their results indicated that drug
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3 survival of ustekinumab was better than that of TNF-inhibitors for both biological-naïve and
4 biological-experienced patients with psoriasis [19]. This concurs with the results from the British
5 register (BADBIR) of 3523 bionative patients, where the drug survival rate of ustekinumab has
6 been found nearly 80% at 3 years, which is significantly higher than that seen with TNF-
7 inhibitors [16]. Gniadecki et al. has also performed an updated study involving 1277 psoriasis
8 patients treated with biological therapy and found that ustekinumab had the highest survival rate
9 (81.9%) at 4 years, followed by adalimumab and infliximab. Between the TNF-inhibitors no
10 significant differences were detected [11]. Our results are comparable to the above investigations,
11 and showed that drug survival rates of biologic therapies were excellent compared to other
12 therapies, even if they diminished over time: 79.70% after the first year, 68.52% after the second
13 year and 60% after the third year. At 3 years, drug survival rates were 67.83% of ustekinumab,
14 51.95% of adalimumab, 49.49% of etanercept, and 36.26% of infliximab. Our findings also
15 showed that drug survival of ustekinumab was superior to TNF-alpha inhibitors, and the
16 significant difference persisted over the 3-year study period. Adalimumab was shown to have the
17 highest drug survival rate of all TNF- inhibitors studied, however, no significant difference was
18 found among these drugs over the 46 months of the study period.

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21 In addition to the analysis of persistence rates, it is also very important to explore predictors of
22 drug survival. No conclusive evidence has yet been provided on the predictors of biological drug
23 survival in psoriasis. Studies done so far discussed the role of several factors such as PASI,
24 DLQI, comorbidities, age, gender, weight, disease onset, duration of psoriasis, presence of
25 psoriatic arthritis, concomitant MTX or biological therapy naïve status and smoking. In *Table 4*
26 we summarized results of long-term survival analyses performed on large psoriasis patient
27 populations, investigating predictors of biological therapies only [11,15,17,19,20]. Three studies
28 have shown that female gender is a predictor of discontinuation of biological therapies,
29 [11,17,19] however Menter's data are not directly comparable with the aforementioned studies
30 since these authors analyzed biological naïve and experienced patients' predictors separately. On
31 the other hand other predictors of discontinuation like previous treatment with biologics, smoking
32 status, higher DLQI, strict adherence to approved dose, presence of comorbidities, were detected
33 only in one of the aforementioned investigations [11,15,17,19,20].

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3 In the present study factors which could be extracted from the database of the NFIH were
4 investigated. In accordance with the aforementioned authors, we could demonstrate the positive
5 impact of male gender on the persistence of infliximab and adalimumab, while it had no effect on
6 the persistence of ustekinumab and etanercept. It is not yet clear how gender impacts the
7 persistence of biological therapy in psoriasis, but remarkably, female rheumatoid arthritis patients
8 are also more likely to discontinue therapy than males [21]. Possible hypothetical explanations
9 could be that female patients may develop anti-drug antibodies more frequently resulting in
10 decreased therapeutic efficacy, or alternatively, psychological factors, such as dissatisfaction with
11 treatment, may play more important role in females, but until now comparative studies were not
12 performed.
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22 In our study in the etanercept group, patients over 40 years were more likely to stay on the
23 therapy than their younger peers. To our knowledge, no other previous investigations showed
24 similar effect of age on the persistence of biological therapies.
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28 In our study biological naïve status and the use of MTX all decreased the risk of dropping out of
29 therapy, although the impact was not significant. Biological therapy naïve status was shown to be
30 a positive predictor for persistence in psoriasis by Gniadecki et al., and, similarly, Lopez-Ferrer
31 could also demonstrate reduction of adalimumab drug survival in patients with prior exposure to
32 another TNF-alpha inhibitor. On the other hand, there are studies which, similar to the current
33 study did not find previous biological therapy usage as a negative predictor of persistence
34 [11,15,19,20,23]. Although concomitant MTX usage has been shown to be associated with a
35 better persistence of biologicals in rheumatological settings, there is no conclusive evidence in
36 psoriasis about additional MTX as a positive predictor [24,25]. In a systematic review Bezooijen
37 et al. selected eight studies, which generally showed that combination therapy of biologicals and
38 MTX had higher efficacy than biological monotherapy, which could also indicate a positive
39 effect of MTX on the drug survival, however, persistence was not investigated in this study [26].
40 On the other hand, Menter and colleagues unexpectedly reported that patients receiving MTX
41 were significantly more likely to discontinue biological treatment compared with those without
42 concomitant MTX in bionative group, but not in biologic experienced patients [19]. Our present
43 study did not show any significant impact of the addition of MTX to the biological therapy on
44 drug survival rates of any of the biological drugs studied.
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Based on the findings of this study drug survival rates of biologic therapies can be regarded as excellent as the vast majority of the patients (nearly 80%) received only one biological over the 3 years' study period, and the mean survival rate did not diminish below 60% even after 3 years. The IL-12/23 inhibitor ustekinumab was shown to have significantly better drug survival rate than the TNF-alpha inhibitors, and when analyzing consolidated data of all assessed biologic therapies, male patients had better persistence than female patients. One of the advantages of the present study is that it is based on real-life data from the NHIF database, which allowed to analyze the whole psoriatic patient population treated with biological therapy in Hungary over a long period of time.

Limitations of the study

This is a retrospective analysis. Since the authors have used the database of the NHIF no information is available on the reason of therapy discontinuation. It is also worthwhile mentioning that while there is a patient support program for ustekinumab with potential impact on drug survival rates, there is no information available as to the existence of similar programs for the TNF-inhibitors. An additional limitation of the study is that the NHIF database did not include the PASI and DLQI scores of patients on biological therapies, and, therefore, such data were taken from the databases of the participant university centers, and, as such, the data do not cover the full patient population.

Disclosure. The use of NHIF database is not free of charge, the costs of using the database had been provided by Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd..The sponsor of the study did not participate in the data collection and data analysis. *Conflict of interest:* András Borsi and Péter Takács are an employees of Janssen-Cilag Ltd. Hungary. The research leading to the study results has received funding from Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary. Éva Remenyik has been supported by Janssen-Cilag and Abbvie for scientific international conference attendance. Lajos Kemény is paid consultant for Janssen and Novartis, speaker for Janssen, Novartis, Galderma, Ewopharma. Sarolta Kárpáti is paid consultant for Janssen, Abbvie. Péter Holló has received consultant or lecture fees from Abbvie, Janssen, MSD and Pfizer. Norbert Wikonkál served as a consultant and advisory board member for companies – Pfizer, MSD, Abbvie, Janssen-Cilag, Lilly, Amgen – that work on field of biological therapies in dermatology. Rolland Gyulai have received consultancy/speaker honoraria from Abbvie, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Roche, and has been reimbursed for international conference

attendance by Abbvie, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Novartis, and Pfizer. Pál Rakonczai and Tamás Balázs are employees of Healthware Consulting Ltd an independent consulting company. Healthware Consulting Ltd which received funding for contribution to the study design and data analyses. Andrea Szegedi is paid consultant for Janssen, Novartis, speaker for Janssen, Novartis, Abbvie, Ewopharma.

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3 **Tables and figures**
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89 **Table 1** Characteristics of the study population
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Number of patients	1263
Mean age in years (SD)	49.3 (14.3)
Male / female (%)	61.3 / 38.7
Patients under 40 years / 40 years or above (%)	29.3 / 70.7
Biological therapy naïve / previously treated (%)	81.3 / 18.7
Number of patients receiving MTX in addition to the biological therapy	97
Mean PASI (SD)	20.5 (6.4)
Mean DLQI (SD)	20.0 (5.8)

Table 2 Baseline characteristics of patients receiving different biological therapies and pairwise comparison of the 4 groups regarding gender, age, ratio of biological naïve patients and MTX usage

Therapy	Adalimumab	Etanercept	Infliximab	Ustekinumab
Treatment episodes (1574)	491 (31.2%)	330 (21.0%)	266 (16.8%)	487 (31.0%)
Mean age (SD)	47.24 (13.77)	47.55 (15.39)	49.92 (13.63)	47.71 (13.31)
Male / Female %	59.1% / 40.9	56.4% / 43.6	64.3% / 35.7	61.4% / 38.6
Patients under 40 years / 40 years or above (%)	33.0 / 67.0	31.5 / 68.5	22.9 / 77.1	31.2 / 68.8
Biological therapy naïve / previously treated (%)	64.4 / 35.6	73.2 / 26.8	77.8 / 22.2	50.1 / 49.9
Patients receiving methotrexate in addition to the biological therapy (treatment episode)	40	16	26	32
P values of the conservative Wald tests, adjusted for the pairwise comparison of the proportion of				
gender				
Adalimumab	-	1	1	1
Etanercept	1	-	0.972	1
Infliximab	1	0.972	-	1
Ustekinumab	1	1	1	-
age groups				
Adalimumab	-	1	0.192	1
Etanercept	1	-	0.385	1
Infliximab	0.192	0.385	-	0.385
Ustekinumab	1	1	0.385	-
biological naïve patients				
Adalimumab	-	0.106	0.012*	0.004*
Etanercept	0.106	-	0.356	<0.001*
Infliximab	0.012*	0.356	-	<0.001*
Ustekinumab	0.004*	<0.001*	<0.001*	-
patients receiving MTX in addition to the biological therapy				
Adalimumab	-	0.85	1	1
Etanercept	0.85	-	0.6	1
Infliximab	1	0.6	-	1
Ustekinumab	1	1	1	-

Data are reported for treatment episodes

*significant differences

Table 3 Studies on long term drug survival of biological therapies in psoriasis

Study	Biologics	Patients/Treatment periods	Follow-up time (months)	Best survival	Source/regimen
R. Gniadecki et al. (2011)	ADA, ETN, INF	747 patients/882 treatment episodes	48	INF (70%)	DERMBIO; Danish prospective registry
M. Esposito et al. (2013)	ADA, ETN, INF	650 patients	28.9 ± 15.4	ETN (72.6%)	Retrospective analysis from three Italian referral centers
van der Reek et al. (2014)	ADA, ETN, UST	249 treatment episodes	12	UST (85%)	Bio-CAPTURE Dutch prospective registry
R.B. Warren et al. (2015)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	3523 patients	36	UST	BADBIR registry; Prospective British cohort study
R. Gniadecki et al. (2015)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	1277 patients/1867 treatment episodes	followed for up to 10 years	UST (81.9% after 5 years)	DERMBIO Danish prospective registry
E. Vilarrasa et al. (2016)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	427 patients/703 treatment episodes	48	UST	retrospective study, from 2 Spanish center
A. Menter et al (2016)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	4000 patients	74	UST	PSOLAR; prospective registry from USA and European countries
L. Pogácsás et al. (2016)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	1263 patients/1574 treatment episodes	46	UST 67.83%	retrospective study, database of NHIF, Hungary

Data of those studies are summarized, which investigated persistence of at least 3 biologics and were collected on large psoriasis patient population of 2 or more centers and over long follow up period (least one year). IFN: infliximab, ADA: adalimumab, ETN: etanercept, UST: ustekinumab

Table 4 Studies on the predictors of biological therapies in psoriasis

Study	Biologics	Examined predictors/covariates	Significant covariates
R. Gniadecki et al. (2015)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 1277 patients/1867 treatment episodes	age, sex, previous biologic treatment, weight, duration of psoriasis, presence of PsA, baseline PASI and DLQI, concomitant MTX, number of co-morbidities	predictors of discontinuation: female gender; previous biologic treatment
R.B. Warren et al. (2015)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 3523 patients	age, sex, BMI, smoking status, presence of PsA, number of co-morbidities, disease duration, disease onset, PASI, DLQI, unstable psoriasis, concomitant MTX, concomitant cyclosporine	predictors of discontinuation: female gender, being current smoker, higher DLQI predictors of drug survival: presence of PsA
A. Menter et al. (2016)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 4000 patients	age, gender, ethnicity, BMI, familial psoriasis history, smoking status, alcohol use status, duration of psoriasis, age at the diagnosis of psoriasis, presence of PsA, study site/geographic region, history of immunomodulator use, types of insurance, previous biologic treatment, reasons for discontinuation of prior biologics, PSA, concomitant MTX use	predictors of discontinuation: in bio naïve patients: concomitant MTX, female gender and geographic region (North America vs. Latin America)
E. Vilarrasa et al. (2016)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 427 patients	sex, presence of PsA, biologic naïve status, use of combination treatment, weight, strict adherence to approved doses, PASI75 and PASI 90 response	predictors of discontinuation: obesity, strict adherence to approved doses; predictors of drug survival: PASI75 and PASI90 response at week 16

<p>A. Jacobi et al. (2016)</p>	<p>INF, ADA, ETN, UST, Efalizumab</p> <p>125 treatment episodes</p>	<p>biologic naïve status, presence of PsA, and comorbidity with the presence of metabolic syndrome</p>	<p>predictors of discontinuation: comorbidities</p> <p>predictors of drug survival: presence of PsA</p>
<p>L. Pogácsás et al. (2016)</p>	<p>INF, ADA, ETN, UST</p> <p>1263 patients/1574 treatment episodes</p>	<p>gender, age, additional MTX therapy, biologic naïve status</p>	<p>predictors of discontinuation: female gender</p>

Data of those studies are summarized, which investigated predictors of at least 3 biologicals and were collected on large psoriasis patient population and over long follow up period (least one year).

IFN: infliximab, ADA: adalimumab, ETN: etanercept, UST: ustekinumab MTX: methotrexate

PASI: psoriasis area severity index, DLQI: Dermatology Life Quality Index

PSA: Physician's Global Assessment

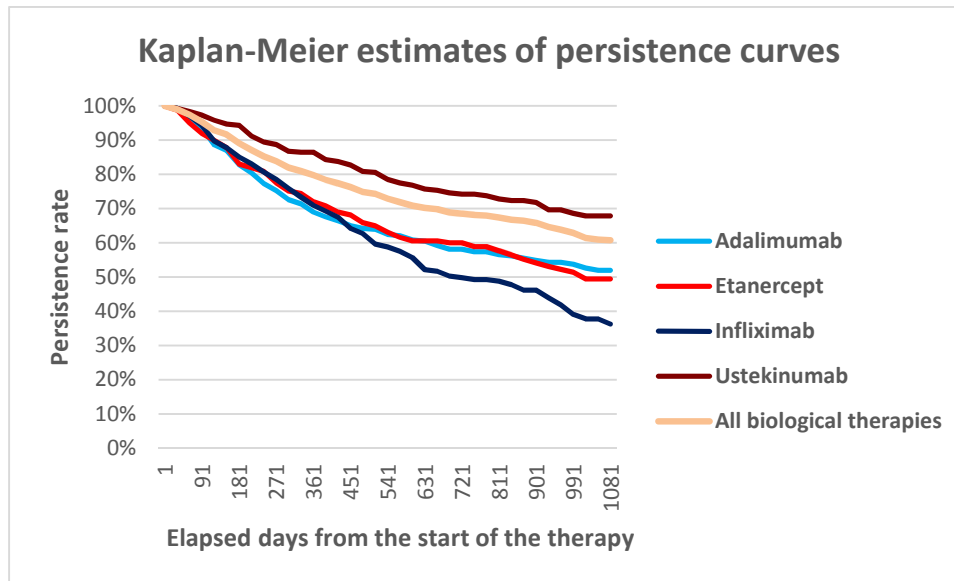


Fig. 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curve of the 4 biologicals individually and in summary (all biological therapies). Data include 1574 treatment episodes. 491 adalimumab treatment series, 330 etanercept series, 266 infliximab series, and 487 ustekinumab series.

Predictors of biological survival

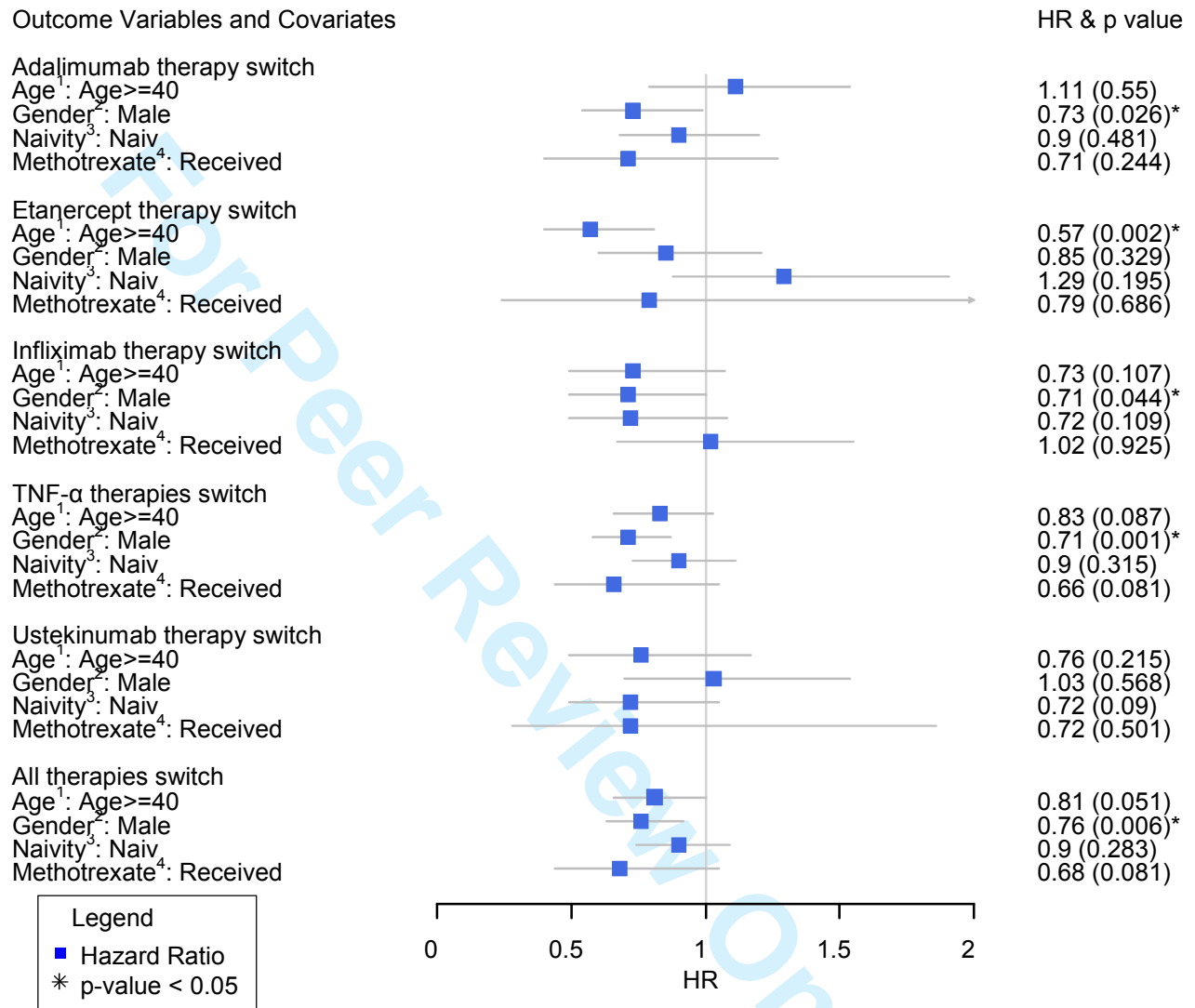


Fig. 2. Multivariate analysis of predictors on biological therapies' persistence rate (Cox proportional hazard and regression model). The figure shows the risk of drop out of therapy by predictors such as patient age, gender, biological therapy naïve status and additional MTX usage.

¹Reference category: Age ≤ 40

²Reference category: female gender

³Reference category: biological-experienced patients

⁴Reference category: patients who do not receive MTX

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For Peer Review Only

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3 **Long-term drug survival and predictor analysis of the whole psoriatic patient population on**
4 **biological therapy in Hungary**
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9 Lilla Pogácsás^{1,2}, András Borsi³, Péter Takács⁴, Éva Remenyik², Lajos Kemény⁵, Sarolta
10 Kárpáti⁶, Péter Holló⁶, Norbert Wikonkál⁶, Rolland Gyulai⁷, Zsuzsanna Károlyi⁸, Pál Rakonczai⁹,
11 Tamás Balázs⁹, Andrea Szegedi^{1,2}
12
13

14 ¹Division of Dermatological Allergology, ²Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine,
15 University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

16 ³Department of Health Economics, Market Access and Reimbursement, Janssen-Cilag Hungary
17 Ltd., Budapest, Hungary

18 ⁴Real World Evidence Centre of Excellence, Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary

19 ⁵Department of Dermatology and Allergology, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

20 ⁶Department of Dermatovenerology and Dermatocology, Semmelweis University, Budapest,
21 Hungary

22 ⁷Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Oncodermatology, University of Pécs, Pécs,
23 Hungary

24 ⁸Department of Dermatology, Semmelweis Hospital, Miskolc, Hungary

25 ⁹Department of Research and Analysis Healthcare Consulting Ltd., Budapest, Hungary
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29 Correspondence:
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32 Andrea Szegedi

33 Division of Dermatological Allergology, Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine,
34 University of Debrecen, Hungary, 4032 Nagyerdei krt. 98., Debrecen, Hungary,
35 aszegedi@med.unideb.hu, telephone and fax number: +36 52 255204, +36 52 255736
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38 Key words: biological therapy, comparison, hazard ratios, persistence, predictors, psoriasis
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Long-term drug survival and predictor analysis of the whole psoriatic patient population on biological therapy in Hungary

Abstract

Persistence is an important component of therapeutic success, which depends on a variety of factors. Persistence measured under optimal conditions during clinical trials does not necessarily coincide with persistence observed in the real-world settings.

The aim of the present study was to compare persistence rate of TNF-alpha inhibitors and interleukin 12/23 inhibitor in all psoriasis patients in Hungary, as well as to analyze the predictors of persistence. Data collected from 1263 patients over a period of 46 months were subjected to a retrospective analysis. Drug survival rate has been calculated according to Kaplan-Meier analysis and Cox regression was used to study the predictors.

The overall persistence rate for the 4 biologicals exceeded 60% after 3 years. The persistence rate of ustekinumab at 3 years was 67.83%, which was superior compared to that of the TNF-alpha inhibitors, where the mean persistence rate was shown to be 50.76% ($p < 0.05$). Male patients showed significantly higher persistence than females (HR = 0.76, $p < 0.05$ CI: 0.63, 0.92). Age, therapy naïve status and use of concomitant MTX did not have significant effect on drug survival. Persistence rate of ustekinumab was significantly higher than that of TNF-alpha inhibitors, and among predictors, only male gender influenced persistence significantly.

Key words: biological therapy, comparison, hazard ratios, persistence, predictors, psoriasis

Introduction

Psoriasis is a common, chronic, immune-mediated skin disease. The disease and the comorbidities that frequently develop during its course not only impact the quality of life negatively, but also worsen life expectancy [1,2]. Epidemiological studies have shown that psoriasis patients have shorter life expectancy, particularly those who develop cardiovascular comorbidities [1]. Even though the disease is currently not curable, there are a number of therapeutic options which ensure a symptom-free status, although requires a long-term, often life-long treatment [3,4]. Optimal drug survival is fundamental in the management of psoriasis and comorbidities [5].

Drug survival, i.e. persistence, is a comprehensive measure of therapeutic success, which depends on a variety of factors, including efficacy, safety, tolerability and patient satisfaction [5]. Suboptimal persistence is a common and complex problem among patients with chronic diseases, including psoriasis [6, 7, 8]. Frequent switches between therapies and clinical research aiming to develop new therapeutic options to address persistence issues both confirm this [6]. An important breakthrough was the development of biological therapies, which became available for the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis. Biological therapies that are now widely available for psoriasis patients and include the TNF- α inhibitor adalimumab, infliximab, etanercept, the IL-12/23 inhibitor ustekinumab, as well as the IL-17 inhibitor secukinumab and ixekizumab.

Drug survival rate of biologicals seems to be better compared to local and conventional systemic therapies [9]. Persistence measured under optimal (standardized) conditions in prescreened, highly motivated patient populations, using tight protocols and independent investigators during clinical trials does not necessarily coincide with the drug survival of therapies prescribed in the real-world settings [10,11]. There are studies on the short-term persistence of biological therapies used in psoriasis, however, very limited comparative evidence is available on the long-term persistence of biological therapies used in the real-world settings [12]. The objectives of this study were to analyze the characteristics of all psoriasis patients treated with any of the biological therapies currently marketed in Hungary (adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, ustekinumab), to compare long-term drug survival of such therapies in the real-world settings, and also to assess the impact of additional factors, like patient age, gender, biological therapy naïve status or the use of methotrexate (MTX) on drug survival.

Methods

Patient enrollment

The data source for this retrospective analysis was the database of the Hungarian National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), which ensured the comparative analysis of all relevant data collected in the real-world settings. NHIF's database covers healthcare data of the entire Hungarian population (nearly 10 million people) and allows identifying all patients in Hungary with a record of any reimbursed drug prescription and provides non-identified patient data on healthcare services and medical outcomes. Based on the available data provided by NHIF, it was possible to analyze patients' age and gender, onset of disease, the collected data of in- and outpatient care and previous therapies. As the NHIF database includes PASI and DLQI scores of psoriasis patients only since February 2012, PASI and DLQI scores were obtained from the registries of participating university centers instead of the NHIF database. In Hungary patients suffering from psoriasis are eligible for biologic treatment in case of severe disease (PASI \geq 15 or BSA \geq 10 or DLQI \geq 10) and documented intolerance or contraindication of standard systemic treatments. Hungarian Guideline on Psoriasis Therapies is based on and synchronized with the European S3 Psoriasis Guideline in accordance with the financing protocol of the NHIF [13].

All psoriasis patients, who started at least one biological therapy in Hungary, within the 46-months study period from 1 June, 2010 to 1 April, 2014, were enrolled in this study. Data of 1574 treatment episodes of 1263 patients were analyzed (since some patients received more than one biological therapy over the study period, the number of treatment episodes exceeded the number of patients).

Treatment discontinuation was defined by the occurrence of any of the following events: termination (no more prescription) or reinduction of the biological therapy (at least 180 days pause of biological therapy until the next prescription¹), or switching to a different biological

¹ Sensitivity analysis was carried out in order to identify the most appropriate gap length for treatment discontinuation. After a 180 day gap in the biological treatment there were only very limited number of patients who continued on the same treatment with no other biological treatment in between. These cases were considered as reinduction of biological therapy.

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3 therapy. There were several reasons of treatment discontinuation however this kind of data were
4 not captured in the NHIF registry. Since the authors have used the database of the NHIF no
5 information was available on the reason of therapy discontinuation. Data were censored for
6 patients where death of any cause occurred over the study period.
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10 11 12 13 14 **Statistical methods applied**

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17 Kaplan-Meier survival curve was used for the comparative analysis of drug survival. Cox
18 proportional hazard model was applied to analyze the impact of patient age, gender, biological
19 therapy naïve status and additional MTX therapy on drug survival. In order to compare patients'
20 baseline characteristics, conservative WALD test was used. ANOVA test, i.e. two-factor variance
21 analysis was used to compare PASI and DLQI scores of treated patients as these are continuous
22 variables. Mean PASI and DLQI scores were calculated using data collected from 641 patients
23 treated by the 4 university centers.
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35 **Results**

36 37 38 **Patients' baseline characteristics**

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42 Data collected from a total number of 1263 patients were analyzed. Demographic data of patients
43 are shown in *Table 1*.

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45 Although the vast majority of the enrolled patients, (n=972, 76.96%) received only one biological
46 therapy over the study period, 18.69% (n=236) and 4.35% (n=55) of the patients were
47 administered 2 and 3 or more biological therapies, respectively. Since certain patients could have
48 received several biological therapies due to the therapeutic switches, the number of treatment
49 episodes (1574) exceeded the total patient number. All further data will refer to treatment
50 episodes.
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3 Patients' characteristics were also analyzed and compared between subgroups receiving different
4 biological therapies (*Table 2*). The most frequently administered therapies were adalimumab and
5 ustekinumab (n=491 and n=487, respectively), followed by etanercept (n=330), and infliximab
6 (n=266). The analysis of each therapeutic groups showed that the distribution by gender, age and
7 additional MTX usage was comparable among the different therapeutic groups, however, the
8 ratio of biological therapy naïve patients was significantly different between the infliximab and
9 adalimumab groups as well as between the ustekinumab and TNF-alpha inhibitors groups
10 (p<0.05). *Table 2* shows side-by-side comparison of data of various treatment groups comparing
11 patient age, gender, additional MTX therapy, and biological therapy naïve status. Possible
12 inhomogeneities in different treatment groups were handled by using all of these 4 grouping
13 variables as covariates in the fitted Cox models, hence the findings on drug survival analysis
14 were not impacted by them. The comparison of PASI (p=0.18) and DLQI (p=0.50) scores
15 showed no significant differences among the 4 subgroups using different biological therapies.
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33 **Drug survival of biological therapies**

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37 The persistence was calculated by using the Kaplan-Meier method, and illustrated as a survival
38 curve (*Figure 1*). The results of the database analysis showed that the drug survival rate of
39 biological therapies in psoriasis patients is high as a whole, since the overall survival rates are
40 79.70%, 68.52%, and 60.75% in the first, second, and third year of therapy, respectively.
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43 The cumulative data of the 3 TNF-alpha inhibitors showed that drug survival probability was
44 73.28% in the first year, which dropped to 60.22% in the second year to decrease as low as
45 50.76% in the third year.
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49 Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of the individual TNF-alpha inhibitors showed that drug survival
50 of etanercept was 71.96% in the first year, which dropped to 60.03% one year later to reach
51 49.49% after the third year. Drug survival of adalimumab and infliximab was 68.98% and
52 70.92% in the first year, which dropped to 58.13% and 49.79% one year later to reach 51.95%
53 and 36.26% after the third year respectively. The comparison of the drug survival rates of the 3
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3 TNF-alpha inhibitors showed that adalimumab had the highest probability of patients staying on
4 the therapy for three consecutive years, although based on Cox model results no significant
5 difference among the 3 therapies could be detected.
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9 Drug survival rate of ustekinumab was 86.50% in the first year, 74.17% in the second year, and
10 67.83% after the third year. The comparison of drug survival rates of ustekinumab and TNF-
11 alpha inhibitors showed that the persistence of ustekinumab was significantly higher if
12 persistence was compared head-to-head with the TNF-alpha inhibitors ($p < 0.05$), and this
13 difference also persisted if ustekinumab was compared to the cumulative data of the 3 TNF-alpha
14 inhibitors ($p < 0.05$).
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20 21 **Predictors of biological survival**

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25 The Cox regression analysis of the impact of predictors such as patient age, gender, biological
26 therapy naïve status and additional MTX use on persistence is shown in *Figure 2*. The analysis of
27 all biological therapies together revealed that the probability of staying on the therapy was
28 significantly higher in male patients than in female patients ($p < 0.05$, CI: 0.63, 0.92). Therapy
29 naïve status, older age and the use of MTX all decreased the risk of dropping out of therapy,
30 although the impact was not significant (*Figure 2*).
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34 The analysis of the cumulative data of all TNF-alpha inhibitor therapies revealed that the impact
35 of patient gender was significant on drug survival: the risk of discontinuing the therapy was 0.71
36 times lower for male patients compared with female patients. (HR=0.71, $p < 0.05$, CI: 0.58, 0.87).
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39 The analysis of the individual therapy groups revealed the following: male gender had a
40 favorable impact on the persistence of adalimumab (HR=0.73, $p < 0.05$ CI: 0.54, 0.99) and
41 infliximab (HR=0.71, $p < 0.05$, CI: 0.49, 1) but did not influence the persistence of etanercept.
42 Patients over 40 years on etanercept showed a significantly better persistence on the drug than
43 patients younger than 40 years of age (HR=0.57, $p < 0.05$, CI: 0.4, 0.81). None of the investigated
44 predictors had a significant impact on drug survival of ustekinumab.
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52 53 **Discussion**

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3 Suboptimal persistence was identified as a significant drawback in the management of psoriatic
4 patients, which considerably hinders successful therapy, and can result in therapy discontinuation
5 and increased treatment costs [6,7]. No conclusive findings have been reached so far regarding
6 the long-term drug survival rates of biological therapies in psoriasis and predictors of their
7 persistence. This study is the first long-term study performed in Hungary on the whole psoriatic
8 patient population treated with biologicals, to analyze the drug survival of all available biological
9 therapies and to investigate predictors of persistence in the real-life settings. A further advantage
10 of this study is that this is the first comprehensive analysis on this topic in the literature using the
11 database of the NHIF of a given country.

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The analysis of the present study population showed that adalimumab and ustekinumab were administered to almost equal numbers of patients, while infliximab and etanercept were also used in identical proportions, although less commonly than the first two agents. Since all four biological therapies can be used under the same circumstances in Hungary, the choice of drug depended mostly on dermatologists' preferences. The comparison of the subgroups receiving different biological therapies revealed that although there were certain differences among the 4 therapy groups in terms of patients' biological therapy naïve status, ultimately this factor didn't prove to have statistically meaningful effect on drug persistence rate or on predictor analysis, since the statistical methods have addressed this issue. At the same time, no significant differences were found in terms of PASI and DLQI scores across the subgroups of patients on different biologicals.

The available literature has already shown, that biological therapies used in psoriasis have superior drug survival rates compared to the rates seen with conventional systemic therapies [9]. Nevertheless, until recently there was only a lack of data obtained on large patient population treated for long time with TNF-alpha inhibitors and IL-12/23 inhibitor in the real-life settings [11, 14]. *Table 3* summarizes all the studies published so far, where data were collected from large patient population of 2 or more centers, the follow-up period was at least one year, and the authors compared at least 3 or more biological therapies. The list includes 5 prospective registry-based studies and 3 retrospective studies [5,11,15,16,17,18,19]. *Table 3* shows, that those studies which included ustekinumab have found drug survival of ustekinumab superior to the drug survival of TNF-alpha inhibitors. The largest study was published by Menter et al. analyzing data of 4000 patients taken from the PSOLAR registry, and their results indicated that drug

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3 survival of ustekinumab was better than that of TNF-inhibitors for both biological-naïve and
4 biological-experienced patients with psoriasis [19]. This concurs with the results from the British
5 register (BADBIR) of 3523 bionative patients, where the drug survival rate of ustekinumab has
6 been found nearly 80% at 3 years, which is significantly higher than that seen with TNF-
7 inhibitors [16]. Gniadecki et al. has also performed an updated study involving 1277 psoriasis
8 patients treated with biological therapy and found that ustekinumab had the highest survival rate
9 (81.9%) at 4 years, followed by adalimumab and infliximab. Between the TNF-inhibitors no
10 significant differences were detected [11]. Our results are comparable to the above investigations,
11 and showed that drug survival rates of biologic therapies were excellent compared to other
12 therapies, even if they diminished over time: 79.70% after the first year, 68.52% after the second
13 year and 60% after the third year. At 3 years, drug survival rates were 67.83% of ustekinumab,
14 51.95% of adalimumab, 49.49% of etanercept, and 36.26% of infliximab. Our findings also
15 showed that drug survival of ustekinumab was superior to TNF-alpha inhibitors, and the
16 significant difference persisted over the 3-year study period. Adalimumab was shown to have the
17 highest drug survival rate of all TNF- inhibitors studied, however, no significant difference was
18 found among these drugs over the 46 months of the study period.

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21 In addition to the analysis of persistence rates, it is also very important to explore predictors of
22 drug survival. No conclusive evidence has yet been provided on the predictors of biological drug
23 survival in psoriasis. Studies done so far discussed the role of several factors such as PASI,
24 DLQI, comorbidities, age, gender, weight, disease onset, duration of psoriasis, presence of
25 psoriatic arthritis, concomitant MTX or biological therapy naïve status and smoking. In *Table 4*
26 we summarized results of long-term survival analyses performed on large psoriasis patient
27 populations, investigating predictors of biological therapies only [11,15,17,19,20]. Three studies
28 have shown that female gender is a predictor of discontinuation of biological therapies,
29 [11,17,19] however Menter's data are not directly comparable with the aforementioned studies
30 since these authors analyzed biological naïve and experienced patients' predictors separately. On
31 the other hand other predictors of discontinuation like previous treatment with biologics, smoking
32 status, higher DLQI, strict adherence to approved dose, presence of comorbidities, were detected
33 only in one of the aforementioned investigations [11,15,17,19,20].

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3 In the present study factors which could be extracted from the database of the NFIH were
4 investigated. In accordance with the aforementioned authors, we could demonstrate the positive
5 impact of male gender on the persistence of infliximab and adalimumab, while it had no effect on
6 the persistence of ustekinumab and etanercept. It is not yet clear how gender impacts the
7 persistence of biological therapy in psoriasis, but remarkably, female rheumatoid arthritis patients
8 are also more likely to discontinue therapy than males [21]. Possible hypothetical explanations
9 could be that female patients may develop anti-drug antibodies more frequently resulting in
10 decreased therapeutic efficacy, or alternatively, psychological factors, such as dissatisfaction with
11 treatment, may play more important role in females, but until now comparative studies were not
12 performed.
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22 In our study in the etanercept group, patients over 40 years were more likely to stay on the
23 therapy than their younger peers. To our knowledge, no other previous investigations showed
24 similar effect of age on the persistence of biological therapies.
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28 In our study biological naïve status and the use of MTX all decreased the risk of dropping out of
29 therapy, although the impact was not significant. Biological therapy naïve status was shown to be
30 a positive predictor for persistence in psoriasis by Gniadecki et al., and, similarly, Lopez-Ferrer
31 could also demonstrate reduction of adalimumab drug survival in patients with prior exposure to
32 another TNF-alpha inhibitor. On the other hand, there are studies which, similar to the current
33 study did not find previous biological therapy usage as a negative predictor of persistence
34 [11,15,19,20,23]. Although concomitant MTX usage has been shown to be associated with a
35 better persistence of biologicals in rheumatological settings, there is no conclusive evidence in
36 psoriasis about additional MTX as a positive predictor [24,25]. In a systematic review Bezooijen
37 et al. selected eight studies, which generally showed that combination therapy of biologicals and
38 MTX had higher efficacy than biological monotherapy, which could also indicate a positive
39 effect of MTX on the drug survival, however, persistence was not investigated in this study [26].
40 On the other hand, Menter and colleagues unexpectedly reported that patients receiving MTX
41 were significantly more likely to discontinue biological treatment compared with those without
42 concomitant MTX in bionative group, but not in biologic experienced patients [19]. Our present
43 study did not show any significant impact of the addition of MTX to the biological therapy on
44 drug survival rates of any of the biological drugs studied.
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Based on the findings of this study drug survival rates of biologic therapies can be regarded as excellent as the vast majority of the patients (nearly 80%) received only one biological over the 3 years' study period, and the mean survival rate did not diminish below 60% even after 3 years. The IL-12/23 inhibitor ustekinumab was shown to have significantly better drug survival rate than the TNF-alpha inhibitors, and when analyzing consolidated data of all assessed biologic therapies, male patients had better persistence than female patients. One of the advantages of the present study is that it is based on real-life data from the NHIF database, which allowed to analyze the whole psoriatic patient population treated with biological therapy in Hungary over a long period of time.

Limitations of the study

This is a retrospective analysis. Since the authors have used the database of the NHIF no information is available on the reason of therapy discontinuation. It is also worthwhile mentioning that while there is a patient support program for ustekinumab with potential impact on drug survival rates, there is no information available as to the existence of similar programs for the TNF-inhibitors. An additional limitation of the study is that the NHIF database did not include the PASI and DLQI scores of patients on biological therapies, and, therefore, such data were taken from the databases of the participant university centers, and, as such, the data do not cover the full patient population.

Disclosure. The use of NHIF database is not free of charge, the costs of using the database had been provided by Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd..The sponsor of the study did not participate in the data collection and data analysis. *Conflict of interest:* András Borsi and Péter Takács are an employees of Janssen-Cilag Ltd. Hungary. The research leading to the study results has received funding from Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary. Éva Remenyik has been supported by Janssen-Cilag and Abbvie for scientific international conference attendance. Lajos Kemény is paid consultant for Janssen and Novartis, speaker for Janssen, Novartis, Galderma, Ewopharma. Sarolta Kárpáti is paid consultant for Janssen, Abbvie. Péter Holló has received consultant or lecture fees from Abbvie, Janssen, MSD and Pfizer. Norbert Wikonkál served as a consultant and advisory board member for companies – Pfizer, MSD, Abbvie, Janssen-Cilag, Lilly, Amgen – that work on field of biological therapies in dermatology. Rolland Gyulai have received consultancy/speaker honoraria from Abbvie, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Roche, and has been reimbursed for international conference

attendance by Abbvie, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Novartis, and Pfizer. Pál Rakonczai and Tamás Balázs are employees of Healthware Consulting Ltd an independent consulting company. Healthware Consulting Ltd which received funding for contribution to the study design and data analyses. Andrea Szegedi is paid consultant for Janssen, Novartis, speaker for Janssen, Novartis, Abbvie, Ewopharma.

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3 **Long-term drug survival and predictor analysis of the whole psoriatic patient**
4 **population on biological therapy in Hungary**
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8 Lilla Pogácsás^{1,2}, András Borsi³, Péter Takács⁴, Éva Remenyik², Lajos Kemény⁵, Sarolta
9 Kárpáti⁶, Péter Holló⁶, Norbert Wikonkál⁶, Rolland Gyulai⁷, Zsuzsanna Károlyi⁸, Pál
10 Rakonczai⁹,
11
12 Tamás Balázs⁹, Andrea Szegedi^{1,2}
13
14
15

16
17 ¹Division of Dermatological Allergology, ²Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine,
18 University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
19

20 ³Department of Health Economics, Market Access and Reimbursement, Janssen-Cilag
21 Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary
22

23 ⁴Real World Evidence Centre of Excellence, Janssen-Cilag Hungary Ltd., Budapest, Hungary
24

25 ⁵Department of Dermatology and Allergology, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
26

27 ⁶Department of Dermatovenerology and Dermatooncology, Semmelweis University,
28 Budapest, Hungary
29

30 ⁷Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Oncodermatology, University of Pécs, Pécs,
31 Hungary
32

33 ⁸Department of Dermatology, Semmelweis Hospital, Miskolc, Hungary
34

35 ⁹Department of Research and Analysis Healthware Consulting Ltd., Budapest, Hungary
36
37
38

39 Correspondence:
40

41 Andrea Szegedi
42
43

44 Division of Dermatological Allergology, Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine,
45 University of Debrecen, Hungary, 4032 Nagyerdei krt. 98., Debrecen, Hungary,
46 aszegedi@med.unideb.hu, telephone and fax number: +36 52 255204, +36 52 255736
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Table 1 Characteristics of the study population

Number of patients	1263
Mean age in years (SD)	49.3 (14.3)
Male / female (%)	61.3 / 38.7
Patients under 40 years / 40 years or above (%)	29.3 / 70.7
Biological therapy naïve / previously treated (%)	81.3 / 18.7
Number of patients receiving MTX in addition to the biological therapy	97
Mean PASI (SD)	20.5 (6.4)
Mean DLQI (SD)	20.0 (5.8)

Table 2 Baseline characteristics of patients receiving different biological therapies and pairwise comparison of the 4 groups regarding gender, age, ratio of biological naïve patients and MTX usage

Therapy	Adalimumab	Etanercept	Infliximab	Ustekinumab
Treatment episodes (1574)	491 (31.2%)	330 (21.0%)	266 (16.8%)	487 (31.0%)
Mean age (SD)	47.24 (13.77)	47.55 (15.39)	49.92 (13.63)	47.71 (13.31)
Male / Female %	59.1% / 40.9	56.4% / 43.6	64.3% / 35.7	61.4% / 38.6
Patients under 40 years / 40 years or above (%)	33.0 / 67.0	31.5 / 68.5	22.9 / 77.1	31.2 / 68.8
Biological therapy naïve / previously treated (%)	64.4 / 35.6	73.2 / 26.8	77.8 / 22.2	50.1 / 49.9
Patients receiving methotrexate in addition to the biological therapy (treatment episode)	40	16	26	32
P values of the conservative Wald tests, adjusted for the pairwise comparison of the proportion of				
gender				
Adalimumab	-	1	1	1
Etanercept	1	-	0.972	1
Infliximab	1	0.972	-	1
Ustekinumab	1	1	1	-
age groups				
Adalimumab	-	1	0.192	1
Etanercept	1	-	0.385	1
Infliximab	0.192	0.385	-	0.385
Ustekinumab	1	1	0.385	-
biological naïve patients				
Adalimumab	-	0.106	0.012*	0.004*
Etanercept	0.106	-	0.356	<0.001*
Infliximab	0.012*	0.356	-	<0.001*
Ustekinumab	0.004*	<0.001*	<0.001*	-
patients receiving MTX in addition to the biological therapy				
Adalimumab	-	0.85	1	1
Etanercept	0.85	-	0.6	1
Infliximab	1	0.6	-	1
Ustekinumab	1	1	1	-

Data are reported for treatment episodes

*significant differences

Table 3 Studies on long term drug survival of biological therapies in psoriasis

Study	Biologics	Patients/Treatment periods	Follow-up time (months)	Best survival	Source/regimen
R. Gniadecki et al. (2011)	ADA, ETN, INF	747 patients/882 treatment episodes	48	INF (70%)	DERMBIO; Danish prospective registry
M. Esposito et al. (2013)	ADA, ETN, INF	650 patients	28.9 ± 15.4	ETN (72.6%)	Retrospective analysis from three Italian referral centers
van der Reek et al. (2014)	ADA, ETN, UST	249 treatment episodes	12	UST (85%)	Bio-CAPTURE Dutch prospective registry
R.B. Warren et al. (2015)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	3523 patients	36	UST	BADBIR registry; Prospective British cohort study
R. Gniadecki et al. (2015)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	1277 patients/1867 treatment episodes	followed for up to 10 years	UST (81.9% after 5 years)	DERMBIO Danish prospective registry
E. Vilarrasa et al. (2016)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	427 patients/703 treatment episodes	48	UST	retrospective study, from 2 Spanish center
A. Menter et al (2016)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	4000 patients	74	UST	PSOLAR; prospective registry from USA and European countries
L. Pogácsás et al. (2016)	ADA, ETN, INF, UST	1263 patients/1574 treatment episodes	46	UST 67.83%	retrospective study, database of NHIF, Hungary

Data of those studies are summarized, which investigated persistence of at least 3 biologicals and were collected on large psoriasis patient population of 2 or more centers and over long follow up period (least one year). IFN: infliximab, ADA: adalimumab, ETN: etanercept, UST: ustekinumab

Table 4 Studies on the predictors of biological therapies in psoriasis

Study	Biologics	Examined predictors/covariates	Significant covariates
R. Gniadecki et al. (2015)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 1277 patients/1867 treatment episodes	age, sex, previous biologic treatment, weight, duration of psoriasis, presence of PsA, baseline PASI and DLQI, concomitant MTX, number of co-morbidities	predictors of discontinuation: female gender; previous biologic treatment
R.B. Warren et al. (2015)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 3523 patients	age, sex, BMI, smoking status, presence of PsA, number of co-morbidities, disease duration, disease onset, PASI, DLQI, unstable psoriasis, concomitant MTX, concomitant cyclosporine	predictors of discontinuation: female gender, being current smoker, higher DLQI predictors of drug survival: presence of PsA
A. Menter et al. (2016)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 4000 patients	age, gender, ethnicity, BMI, familial psoriasis history, smoking status, alcohol use status, duration of psoriasis, age at the diagnosis of psoriasis, presence of PsA, study site/geographic region, history of immunomodulator use, types of insurance, previous biologic treatment, reasons for discontinuation of prior biologics, PSA, concomitant MTX use	predictors of discontinuation: in bio naïve patients: concomitant MTX, female gender and geographic region (North America vs. Latin America)
E. Vilarrasa et al. (2016)	INF, ADA, ETN, UST 427 patients	sex, presence of PsA, biologic naïve status, use of combination treatment, weight, strict adherence to approved doses, PASI75 and PASI 90 response	predictors of discontinuation obesity, strict adherence to approved doses; predictors of drug survival: PASI75 and PASI90 response at week 16

<p>A. Jacobi et al. (2016)</p>	<p>INF, ADA, ETN, UST, Efalizumab</p> <p>125 treatment episodes</p>	<p>biologic naïve status, presence of PsA, and comorbidity with the presence of metabolic syndrome</p>	<p>predictors of discontinuation: comorbidities</p> <p>predictors of drug survival: presence of PsA</p>
<p>L. Pogácsás et al. (2016)</p>	<p>INF, ADA, ETN, UST</p> <p>1263 patients/1574 treatment episodes</p>	<p>gender, age, additional MTX therapy, biologic naïve status</p>	<p>predictors of discontinuation: female gender</p>

Data of those studies are summarized, which investigated predictors of at least 3 biologicals and were collected on large psoriasis patient population and over long follow up period (least one year).

IFN: infliximab, ADA: adalimumab, ETN: etanercept, UST: ustekinumab MTX: methotrexate

PASI: psoriasis area severity index, DLQI: Dermatology Life Quality Index

PSA: Physician's Global Assessment

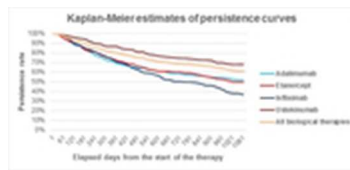


Fig. 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curve of the 4 biologicals individually and in summary (all biological therapies). Data include 1574 treatment episodes. 491 adalimumab treatment series, 330 etanercept series, 266 infliximab series, and 487 ustekinumab series.

7x3mm (600 x 600 DPI)

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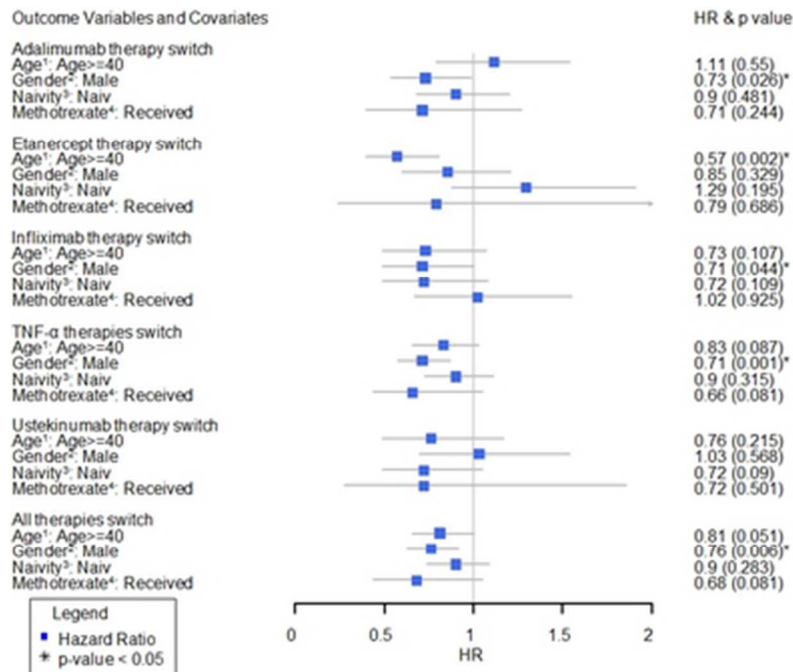


Fig. 2. Multivariate analysis of predictors on biological therapies' persistence rate (Cox proportional hazard and regression model). The figure shows the risk of drop out of therapy by predictors such as patient age, gender, biological therapy naïve status and additional MTX usage.

¹Reference category: Age<=40

²Reference category: female gender

³Reference category: biological-experienced patients

⁴Reference category: patients who do not receive MTX

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