four weeks of treatment. Thus, TCP once daily is the most cost-effective treatment regime. In addition, when comparing current treatment practice (twice daily calcipotriol applied for 8 weeks) to the once daily application of the TCP for 4 weeks, it will reduce the treatment cost for psoriasis in Sweden by 46.2%. CONCLUSION: This study demonstrates that TCP applied once daily is both cost-effective and a cost-minimising treatment strategy, which offers psoriasis patients a convenient and highly effective treatment regime with a rapid onset of action.

**ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF METHOTREXATE AND CYCLOSPORIN A FOR PATIENTS WITH SEVERE PSORIASIS**

Opmeer B, Heydendael V, deBorgie C, Spuls P, Bossuyt P, deRie M, Bos J

Academic Medical Center/University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Despite longstanding use of Methotrexate (MTX) and Cyclosporin A (CsA) in patients with severe psoriasis, true comparative evidence derived from a RCT evaluating these systemic therapies was still lacking. Our prospective, double blinded randomised comparison of 16 weeks treatment with MTX or CsA in 85 patients showed comparable effectiveness and quality of life (Heydendael, submitted). The question arises, whether other aspects, including costs of treatment of psoriasis, side effects of subjective perspectives could be deciding factors in treatment decision making; especially considering the different retail prices for MTX and CsA. OBJECTIVES: To document the process of treatment of psoriasis with MTX or CsA and follow-up in terms of resource utilisation and associated costs. METHODS: Additional data on direct medical and nonmedical costs and indirect costs were collected for all 85 randomised patients up to 1 year after randomisation, and a cost minimisation analysis was set up according to a societal perspective. RESULTS: The average cumulative costs associated with 16 weeks treatment was €1,593 in MTX and €2,113 in CsA (€520 difference favouring MTX), whereas 36 weeks of follow up generated €2,417 (MTX) and €2,306 (CsA) (difference: €111 in favour of CsA). Overall costs after one year lead to an overall difference of €409 in favour of MTX on a total cost of €4010 (10%). CONCLUSIONS: Economic arguments are not a deciding factor in decision making between MTX or CsA for treatment of severe psoriasis, as differences are small and costs associated with treatment and follow up management are generated by a variety of resources utilised, than costs of systemic therapy alone.

**BURDEN OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN SWITZERLAND**

Kugland B, Ehliken B, Schramm B, Volz A, van Assche D, Berger K

1MERG—Medical Economics Research Group, Munich, Germany; 2Novartis Pharma Schweiz AG, Bern, Switzerland; 3Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of the evaluation is to show the resource utilization and related costs per year as well as per flare for patients suffering from atopic dermatitis in Switzerland from patients’ and third-party payers’ perspective. METHODS: Multi-center, retrospective cost-of-illness study. Information as demographic characteristics, number of flares per year, consultations, hospitalizations, cures and out-of-pocket expenditures as for e.g. OTC-medication was collected with a patient-questionnaire. Resource utilization of outpatient care was gained from patient’s records. Direct and indirect costs were considered. RESULTS: Three office-based pediatricians, two office-based dermatologists and two dermatology hospitals participated. Sixty-five patients are included in this study until now. Thirty-four patients sent back the questionnaire (52%), Mean age of patients is 17 years (1–70 years); about 42% are female. About 34% of the patients have a mild course of disease; about 36% suffer from a moderate and 30% from a severe or extreme severe course of disease. On average, 4.0 (SD 3.7) flares per year were reported by the patients. Two out of 31 patients (6.5%) require hospitalization due atopic dermatitis per year. From the patients’ perspective the main cost drivers are OTC-medication and skin care products with annual costs of CHF 360 per patient. Patients’ expenses for special investigations and other devices for e.g. special clothes and nutrition are about CHF 355 per patient. For additional treatment (e.g. psychotherapeutics and/or naturopathy) patients spent about CHF 355 per patient. CONCLUSION: These preliminary results show that out-of-pocket expenses per patient and year amount about CHF 800. The study is still ongoing and final cost data from the third party payers’ perspective are under evaluation until August 2002.

**RESOURCE UTILIZATION IN PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN GERMANY**

Ehliken B, Kugland B, Schramm B, Quednau K, van Assche D, Berger K

1MERG—Medical Economics Research Group, Munich, Germany; 2Novartis Pharma GmbH, Nuremberg, Germany; 3Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland

OBJECTIVES: To estimate the resource utilization and related costs per flare and per year for patients suffering from atopic dermatitis in Germany from patients’ and the third-party payers’ perspective. METHODS: Multi-
center, cross-sectional cost-of-illness study. Information as demographic characteristics, consultations, hospitalizations, rehabilitations, out-of-pocket-expenditures as for OTC-medication, copayment, skin care products and absence from work was collected with a semi-standardized patient-questionnaire. Resource utilization of outpatient care was gained from patients' records. Direct and indirect costs were considered. RESULTS: 16 centers—10 office-based dermatologists, 4 office-based pediatricians, 1 outpatient unit of a dermatology hospital and 1 patient organization participated. Until now, 189 patients were enrolled at the medical centers. 153 patient questionnaires were sent back (including 53 from patients of the patient organisation). Mean age of patients is 24 years (1–71 years) and about 46% are male. About 27% of the patients have a mild course of disease, about 36% a moderate and about 37% a severe or very severe course of disease. Six out of 153 patients were hospitalized due to the current flare (4%). On average, patients' expenses for OTC-medication and skin care products are €164 per year, for additional treatment e.g. psychotherapy or naturopathy €62 per year and for e.g. special clothes or nutrition €349 per year. CONCLUSIONS: Because the study is still ongoing, annual cost data from the third party payers' perspective is under evaluation, and will be finalized not later than August 2002. But these preliminary results show that patients and their families bear are remarkable amount of the annual costs (about €575) by themselves.

COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PIMECROLIMUS (ELIDEL) IN THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS
Grueger J, van Assche D
Novartis Pharmaceuticals AG, Basel, Switzerland

OBJECTIVE: To compare the cost-effectiveness of an Elidel (pimecrolimus cream 1%) in the long-term management of children with atopic dermatitis. METHODS: Data were taken from a double-blind, multicenter, randomised, parallel-group study. Patients were randomised (2:1) to receive pimecrolimus treatment paradigm (i.e. emollients, pimecrolimus, medium potency topical corticosteroids) or standard of care (emollients, vehicle, medium potency topical corticosteroids). The study was conducted in children and adolescents (2 to 18 years of age, 474 patients on pimecrolimus and 237 patients on standard of care). Costs were estimated by linking severity of disease as defined by Investigator's Global Assessment (IGA) to average treatment costs. Drug costs were estimated from the clinical trial data. Efficacy was measured in number of patients with 0 flares over 12 months ("successfully treated patient", STP) and average number of flares as reported in the clinical trial. RESULTS: In the children and adolescent study, 68.4% of patients on pimecrolimus and 43.5% of patients on standard of care had no flare over the total study period of 12 months, a difference of 24.9%. The average number of flares in the pimecrolimus treatment group was 0.48, compared to 3.36 in the standard of care group, a reduction of 2.88 flares. Patients on pimecrolimus cost GBP 1009, patients on standard of care GBP 448, an incremental cost of GBP 561 over 12 months. 4.0 patients needed to be treated to achieve one STP, the cost per STP was GBP 2255 and the cost per flare avoided was GBP 195. The results were sensitive to the assumption of drug substance used, which is closely linked to the cost of treatment. CONCLUSIONS: Pimecrolimus has a very reasonable cost-effectiveness as measured by the incremental cost per additional successfully treated patient and the incremental cost per flare avoided.

EAR, EYE & SKIN DISEASES/DISORDERS—Clinical Outcomes

USING A DISCRIMINANT FUNCTION TO MODEL THE LONG-TERM VISUAL FIELD CONSEQUENCES OF IOP CONTROL: A CASE STUDY BASED ON A TIMOLOL, LATANOPROST AND TRAVOPROST CLINICAL TRIAL
Nordmann JP1, Le Pen C2, Liliu H3, Berdeaux G4
1Quinze-Vingts Centre Hospitalier National d’Ophtalmologie, Paris, France; 2CLP-Santé, Paris, France; 3Alcon, Rueil-Malmaison, France

OBJECTIVE: To estimate and compare the long-term consequences of IOP control of travoprost, latanoprost and timolol. METHOD: Daily IOP average, variance, minimum, and maximum were derived from a 12-month randomised, double-masked double-dummy, phase III multi-centre clinical trial comparing travoprost 0.004% od, latanoprost 0.005% od and timolol 0.5% bid. Patients had POAG or OH, and IOP was measured at weeks 2, 12, 24 and 48 at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. The Stewart discriminant functions were followed by a step-by-step threshold responder analysis. The statistical unit was eye and a second interaction order analysis of variance was performed including eye, time, treatment, and investigator as variables. Sensitivity analysis was performed on the 5th to 95th-percentile range of the discriminant empirical distribution function. RESULTS: Five hundred and ninety-six patients were randomly assigned to travoprost, timolol, or latanoprost. Travoprost patients’ daily IOP average was significantly lower than timolol (−1.3 mmHg, P < 0.0001) and latanoprost (−0.3 mmHg, P < 0.001). Similar results were found on daily IOP minimal value (respectively −1.3 mmHg, P < 0.001; −0.3 mmHg, P < 0.004) and daily IOP maximal value (respectively −1.5 mmHg, P < 0.0001; −0.3 mmHg, P < 0.02). No difference was found on IOP variance between the prostaglandins (P < 0.25) while timolol patients had a higher estimate (−0.60; P < 0.004). If eight timolol patients were treated instead with latanoprost, one new VFD would be avoided over five