

# Efficacy of switching between tumor necrosis factor-alfa inhibitors in psoriasis: Results from the Italian Psocare Registry

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## Abstract

**Background:** Some studies have shown that switching patients from one tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alfa inhibitor to another may be beneficial when they have an inadequate response or an adverse event.

**Objective:** We sought to assess the variables predicting the efficacy of the second TNF-alfa inhibitor in patients discontinuing the first TNF-alfa inhibitor.

**Methods:** Data from all 5423 consecutive patients starting TNF-alfa inhibitor therapy for psoriasis between September 2005 and September 2010 who were included in the Italian Psocare registry were analyzed.

**Results:** In 105 patients who switched to a second TNF-alfa inhibitor who had complete follow-up data, 75% improvement in the Psoriasis Area Severity Index score (PASI 75) was reached by 29% after 16 weeks and by 45.6% after 24 weeks. Patients who switched because of secondary loss of efficacy (loss of initial PASI 75 response) or adverse events/intolerance were more likely to reach PASI 75 than those who switched as a result of primary inefficacy (PASI 75 never achieved) (hazard ratio 2.7, 95% confidence interval 1.3-5.5 vs hazard ratio 2.0, 95% confidence interval 1.0-3.9 and 1, respectively).

**Limitations:** There was a small number of patients with complete follow-up data.

**Conclusion:** PASI 75 response in patients who switched from one antie-TNF-alfa agent to another was significantly reduced in patients who showed primary inefficacy of the first antie-TNF-alfa.