

Biologics and New Advanced Drugs for Hidradenitis Suppurativa

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Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic, recurrent, inflammatory disease of the follicular pilosebaceous unit that primarily affects flexural areas where apocrine glands are found. Current treatment strategies for HS in Korea are antibiotics, surgical management, and TNF- α blockers. In addition, recent clinical data supports targeted immune therapy for HS, and longitudinal studies suggest benefits from these agents, both when used alone and as an adjunct to surgical interventions. This talk included case-control studies and randomized controlled clinical trials with several targeted biologics.

- Adalimumab (Humira): Adalimumab is a tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) inhibitor approved for treating moderate to severe HS. It works by reducing inflammation and suppressing the immune response. Several clinical trials have demonstrated the efficacy of adalimumab in improving HS symptoms and reducing the number of abscesses and inflammatory nodules.
- Infliximab (Remicade): Infliximab is another TNF- α inhibitor that has shown benefit in treating HS. It is administered intravenously and has been found to improve symptoms, decrease the number of abscesses, and improve quality of life in patients with moderate to severe HS.
- Secukinumab (Cosentyx): Secukinumab is an interleukin-17A inhibitor that has been investigated for treating HS. Early studies have shown promising results in reducing inflammatory lesions and improving patient-reported outcomes.
- JAK Inhibitors: Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors are a class of drugs that target specific enzymes involved in the inflammatory process. There is growing interest in using JAK inhibitors, such as tofacitinib and baricitinib, for treating HS. These drugs have shown efficacy in other inflammatory conditions and may have potential in HS management.

It's important to note that these medications should be discussed with a dermatologist or healthcare provider experienced in treating HS. While biological drugs can effectively manage HS symptoms, they may also have potential side effects and require careful monitoring. In addition, not all biologics may be available or approved for HS treatment in every country.

Research into new treatments for HS is ongoing, and other advanced therapies and targeted treatments may emerge in the future. Clinical trials play a crucial role in evaluating the safety and efficacy of these new interventions, and individuals with HS may consider participating in such trials to contribute to the advancement of HS treatment options.