Prevalence and Advanced Systemic Treatment Prescription Patterns for Scalp Psoriasis in the Real-World Dermatology Setting in the United States



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INTRODUCTION

- Plaque psoriasis (PsO) is an immune-mediated, chronic, systemic, inflammatory skin condition with a prevalence of roughly 3.0% in the US¹
- The scalp is one of the most commonly affected areas in patients with PsO, with literature estimates showing that up to 80% of patients have disease present on the scalp at some point during their lifetime²
- Treatment recommendations for PsO of the scalp range from topical therapies to systemic agents, including oral PDE4 inhibitors and numerous biologic agents with several mechanisms of action³
- Recent guidelines recommend topical treatments for patients with moderate-to-severe PsO of the scalp and mild-to-moderate PsO of the body³
- Topical treatment of PsO of the scalp can be difficult because of the presence of hair, which complicates the application and, in turn, the effectiveness of certain topical products³

OBJECTIVE

Estimate the prevalence of PsO of the scalp and the associated prescription patterns of advanced systemic therapies (ASTs) in the real-world dermatology setting in the US

METHODS

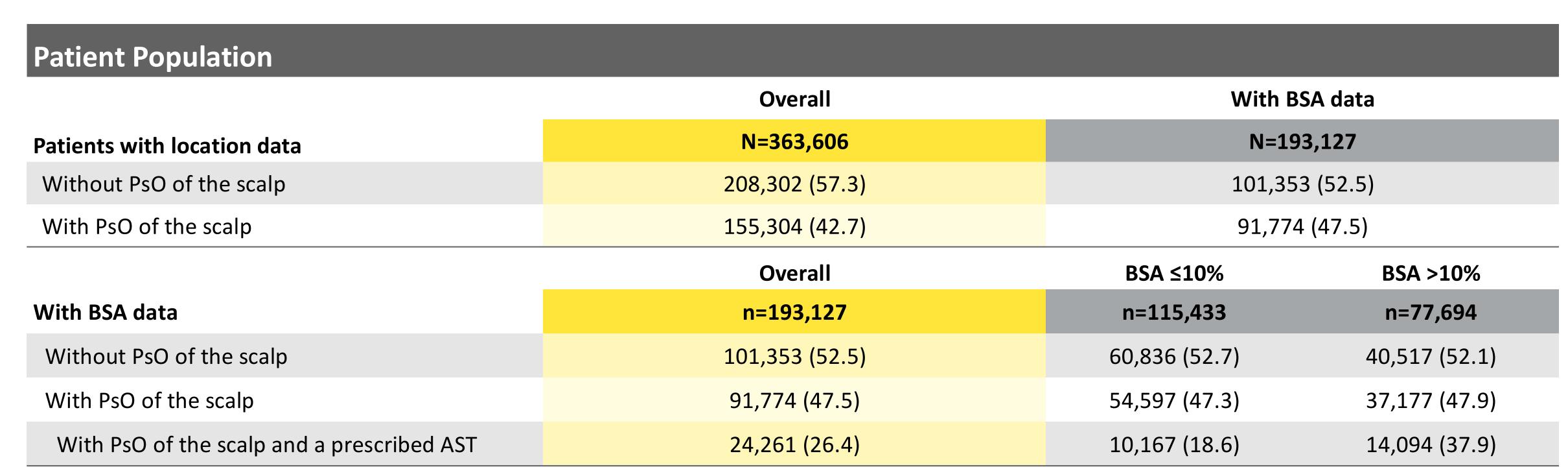
- This retrospective analysis reviewed EHR data from outpatient dermatology practices for patients diagnosed with PsO from January 1, 2017, to March 26, 2025, using the OMNY Health real-world data platform
- The OMNY Health real-world data platform comprises EHR data from US-based specialty dermatology facilities and integrated delivery networks across all 50 states
- Extracted data elements included diagnosis codes, prescription orders and administrations, PsO body location, and disease activity measures (eg, BSA and IGA)
- Patients were selected if they had a diagnosis code for PsO (ICD-10: L40.0) and a record of body location data included in their EHR profile
- The proportion of patients with scalp involvement (defined as a location of "scalp" or "hair") was tabulated, and patients were stratified by greatest-recorded BSA measurement, to understand its effect on treatment patterns for patients with PsO of the scalp
- Proportions of patients with a prescription order or administration of AST (oral PDE4 inhibitors, oral TYK2 inhibitors, and biologic agents) were also determined

RESULTS

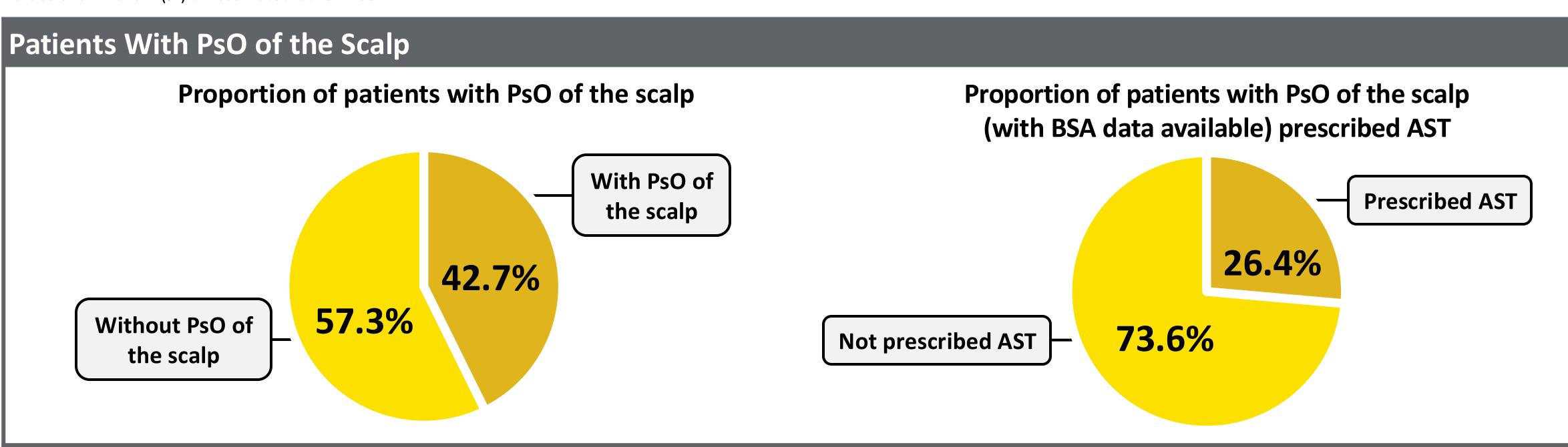
- Overall, 363,606 of 384,536 EHRs had PsO location data available
- Among these patients, approximately one-half also had ≥1 BSA measurement recorded
- The prevalence of PsO of the scalp was similar between the overall population (42.7%) and patients with BSA data available (47.5%)
- Overall, 26.4% of patients with PsO of the scalp and BSA recorded, were prescribed an AST
- 37.9% of patients with BSA > 10% were prescribed an AST
- 18.6% of patients with BSA ≤10% were prescribed an AST

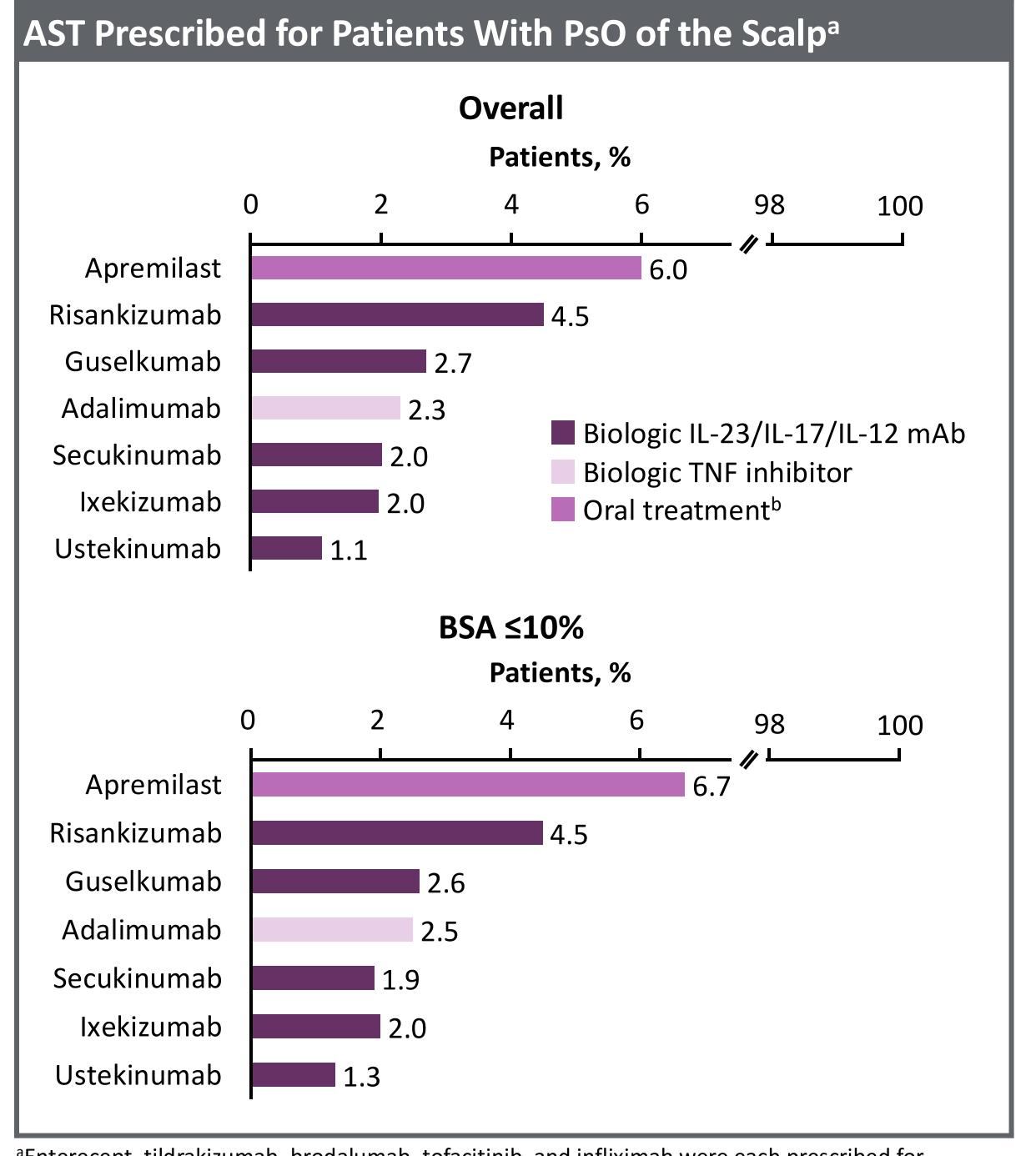
LIMITATIONS

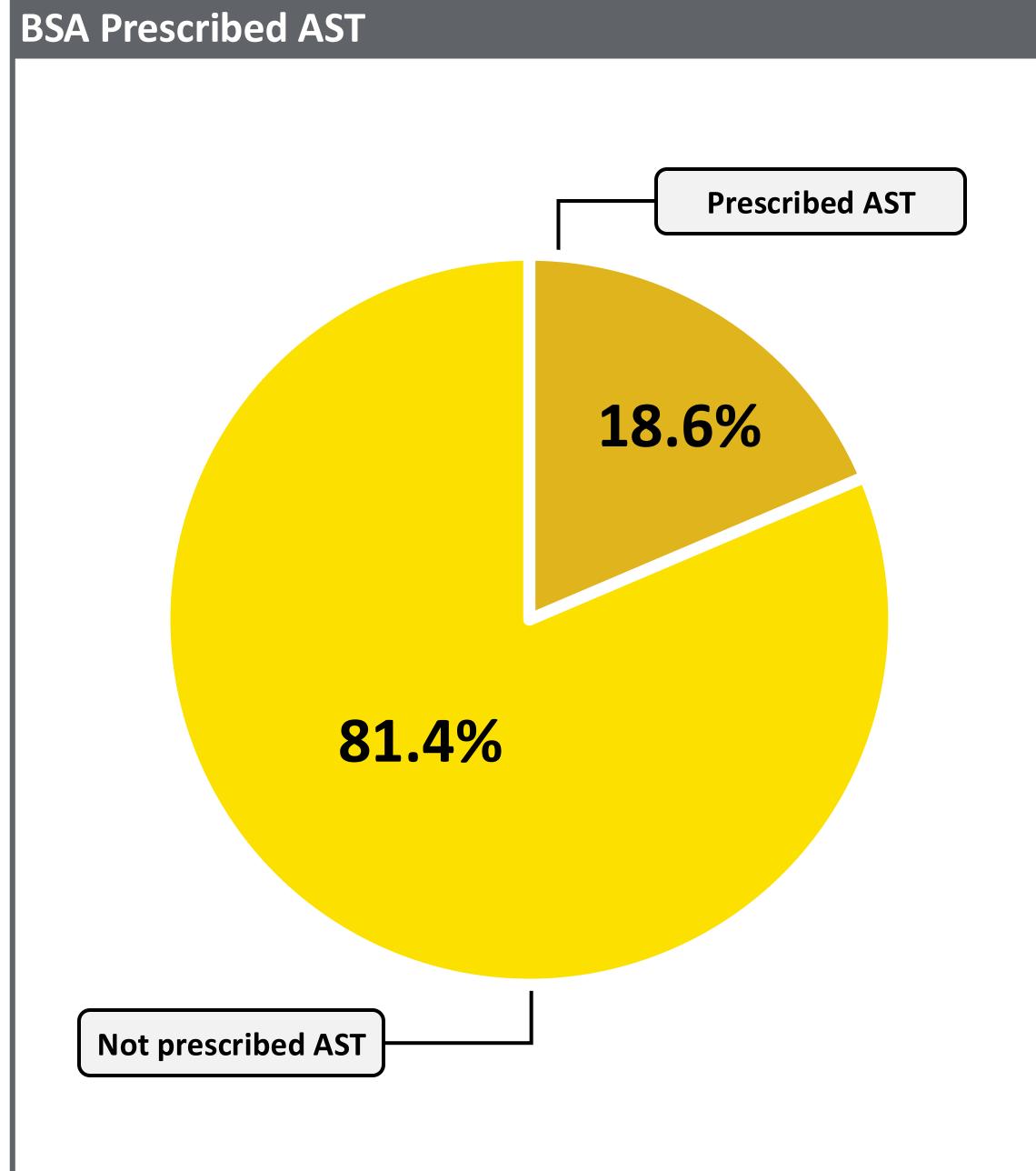
- Only ~50% of EHRs contained ≥1 BSA measurement and documentation of scalp involvement was inconsistent
- Because of the retrospective design, there is the potential for unmeasured confounding (comorbidities, disease severity, treatment history, patient preferences, clinician judgment)
- Terms used ("scalp," "hair") may lack specificity/ standardization, and activity status (active vs historical) was often unclear



Values shown are n (%) unless noted otherwise.







Proportion of Patients With PsO of the Scalp and ≤10%

^aEnterecept, tildrakizumab, brodalumab, tofacitinib, and infliximab were each prescribed for <1% of patients. bApremilast is an oral PDE4 inhibitor.

CONCLUSIONS

- PsO of the scalp was present for a substantial proportion of patients (>42%) with PsO in the US
- One-quarter of patients with PsO of the scalp were prescribed AST
- Despite having low BSA (≤10%), indicative of mild-to-moderate PsO that is commonly managed with topical treatments, >18% of patients were prescribed AST, suggesting that scalp involvement is a factor in treatment choice
- These results suggest an unmet need for innovative topical treatments for PsO of the scalp that can be used before AST
- Additional research is needed to understand treatment decisions for patients with PsO of the scalp

ABBREVIATIONS

AST, advanced systemic therapy; BSA, body surface area affected; EHR, electronic health record; ICD-10, International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision; PDE4, phosphodiesterase 4; PsO, psoriasis; TNF, tumor necrosis factor; TYK2, tyrosine kinase 2; US, United States

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DISCLOSURES

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