

Impact of dupilumab treatment on work-related medical leave in patients with atopic dermatitis in a Colombian health insurance provider: an observational real-world practice study

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J. Bolaños-Lopez¹, L.E. Pérez¹, C. Bello-Gándara¹, F.J. González-Patiño¹, S. Londoño², Y. Torres², A.M. Toro¹

¹Centro de Biociencias, SURA, Medellín, Colombia

²Sanofi, Bogotá, Colombia

INTRODUCTION

Atopic dermatitis (AD) affects quality of life and work productivity, yet real-world evidence of dupilumab's impact on work-related medical leave in Colombia and Latin America is limited.

OBJECTIVE

To assess the impact of dupilumab treatment on work productivity in patients with AD.

METHODS

This retrospective cohort study analyzed electronic health records of Colombian AD patients receiving dupilumab through a health insurance provider (2018-2023), focusing on work-related medical leave (WRML) attributed to AD or its complications. Clinical and sociodemographic data were collected from electronic medical records to evaluate the impact of treatment on work productivity. WRML patterns were compared during two periods: 52 weeks before and after dupilumab initiation, with statistical significance ($p < 0.05$) assessed using McNemar's test.



POSTER HIGHLIGHT: Dupilumab significantly reduced work-related medical leave in Colombian adults with atopic dermatitis, demonstrating substantial improvement in work productivity.

Figure 1: Patients with ≥ 1 WRML due to AD

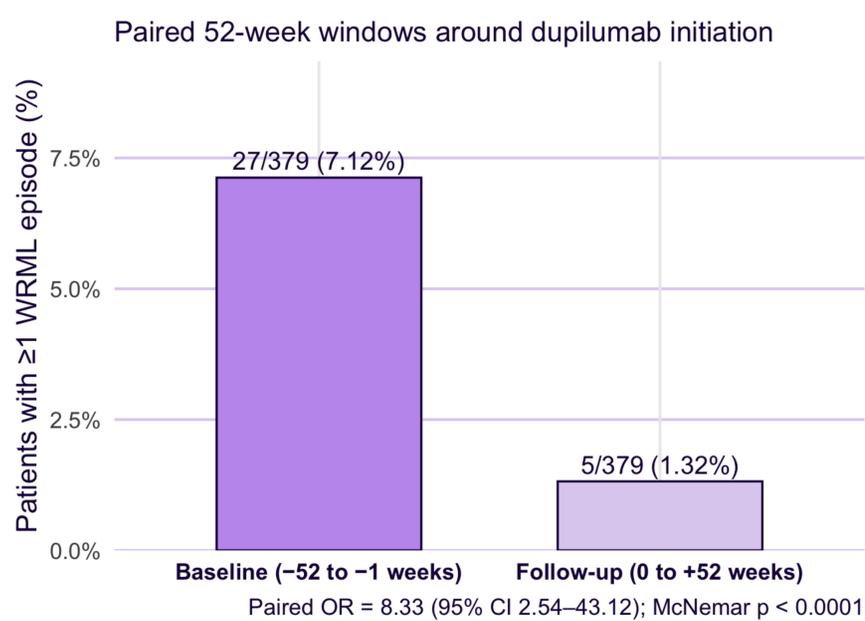
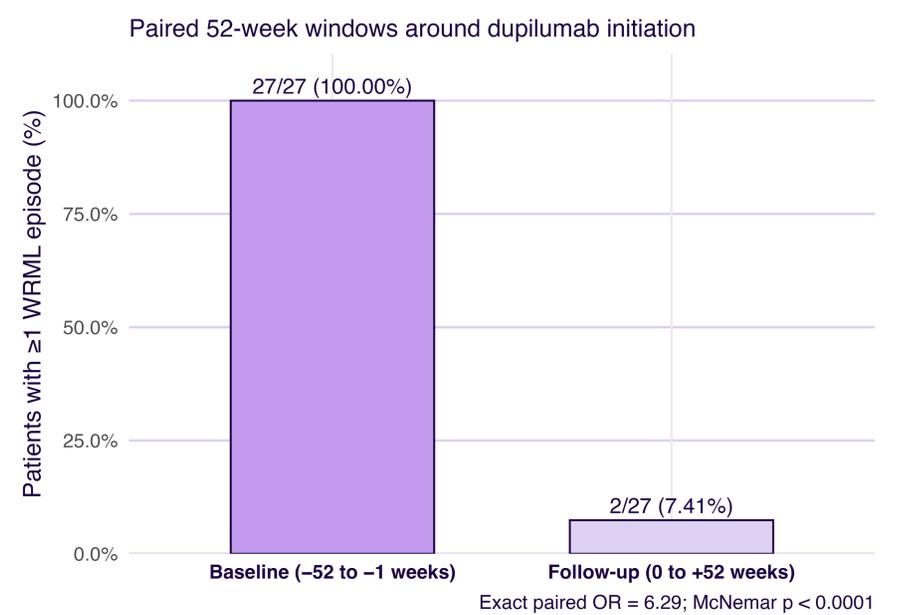


Figure 2: Recurrence among patients with WRML at baseline



RESULTS

- Patient Characteristics:** The study population comprised 379 patients evaluated through electronic health records, with a slight female predominance (51.7%) and median age of 28 years (IQR: 22-37). The disease burden was further characterized by significant comorbidities, with allergic rhinitis affecting one-third of patients (33.8%) and asthma present in nearly one-fifth of the cohort (18.7%), highlighting the complex nature of atopic dermatitis management in these patients.
- Impact on Work-Related Medical Leave:** Work-related medical leave (WRML) episodes demonstrated a substantial and statistically significant decrease following dupilumab initiation, with the proportion of patients requiring medical leave dropping markedly from 7.12% ($n=27$) at baseline to 1.32% ($n=5$) during the follow-up period (OR=8.33; 95% CI: 2.54-43.12; $p < 0.0001$). The impact of treatment was particularly evident in the low recurrence rate, as only 7.41% of patients who had required medical leave at baseline experienced subsequent episodes after initiating dupilumab, suggesting a meaningful improvement in work productivity and potential economic benefits for both patients and healthcare systems.

CONCLUSIONS

- Dupilumab treatment significantly reduced work-related medical leave in Colombian adults with atopic dermatitis, with an overall 82% decrease in cases and a 92% reduction in recurrence.
- These results suggest improved work productivity and potential socioeconomic benefits, highlighting dupilumab's positive impact on patients' occupational functioning and overall disease management.

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Author contact information: Sergio Londoño – sergio.londono@sanofi.com
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