# PATIENT PERSPECTIVES ON TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: UNDERSTANDING WHAT MATTERS MOST

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### BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES



Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a complex, chronic,



Recent treatment recommendations highlight the



This pilot study investigated patient perceptions of PsA medication effectiveness, patient treatment priorities, and how health care providers (HCPs) can best communicate treatment expectations and emphasize cumulative gains in progress to facilitate shared decision-making

## METHODS

- Janssen's Patient Engagement Research Council (PERC) program represents diverse groups of disease-aware adults ≥18 years of age with chronic health conditions who live in the United States and provide insights and feedback during a specific, structured series of activities<sup>3</sup>
- PsA PERC patients:
  - Recruited from online advertising, patient organizations, referral by HCPs
- Self-reported diagnosis of PsA and under the care of a rheumatologist
- Selection based on demographic and self-reported clinical characteristics Signed a consent and release form and were compensated for their time
- Focus group:
  - Multiple choice pre-focus group survey provided a starting point for discussions
  - Discussion guide-based, 2-hour, semi-structured virtual focus group (audio-recorded and transcribed) was held Feb 2022

• Participants were probed for relative importance of aspects of treatment effectiveness to determine ranking of patient priorities

Coding applying thematic analysis was conducted by a qualitatively trained researcher

#### CONCLUSIONS

In this exploratory focus group study involving biologic-experienced patients with established PsA:

- Patients prioritized durable treatment response; prevention of joint damage; and improvement in impaired function, joint pain, and stiffness when determining PsA treatment effectiveness
- Patient focus on durability may reflect previously reported concerns around future health uncertainty<sup>2</sup> Alleviating fatigue and brain fog was also highly important
- Patients considered the Patient Global Assessment to most accurately reflect their PsA disease activity and response to treatment
- Patient priorities when assessing PsA medication effectiveness and communicating with HCPs can inform shared decision-making in clinical care
- Setting realistic expectations of improvements (timing/extent) in specific functional impairments important to the individual patient was considered the most effective way to communicate treatment benefit
- Future studies investigating improvements in specific activities included in outcome measures such as the Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index will further facilitate tailored, meaningful discussions with PsA patients during shared decision-making

# RESULTS

Among the 5 biologic-experienced patients with and brain fog when assessing PsA medication effectiveness established PsA who participated in the PERC program, long-term effectiveness was more important than rapid onset of action; limiting joint damage and impact on

\*The precise definition of 'long term' varied.

 Four patients were female, three patients were White, and mean/median PsA duration was 13.6/5 years

brain fog were considered highly disruptive.

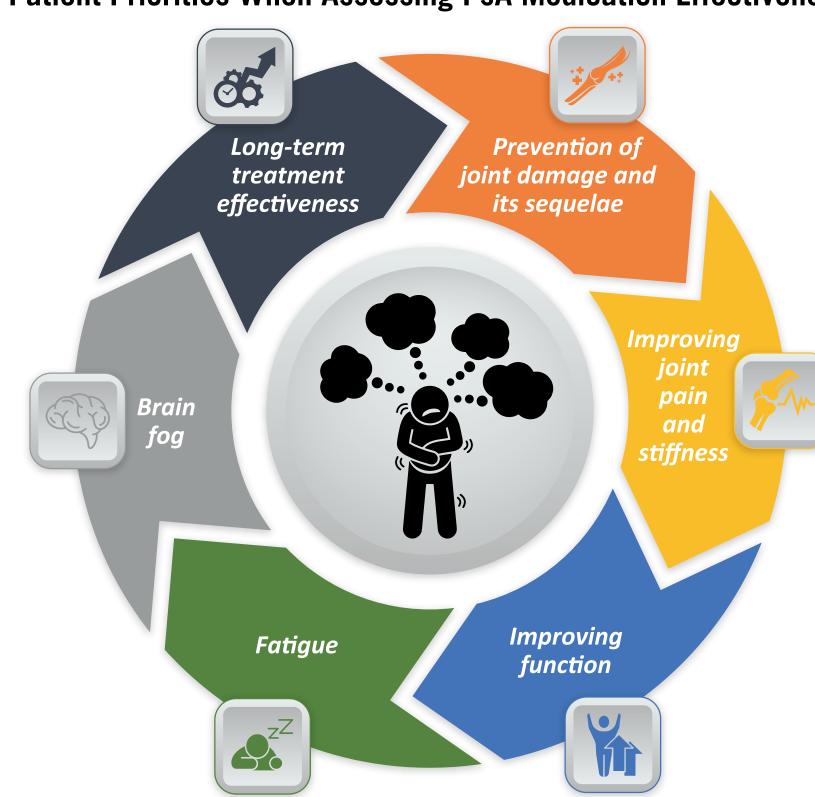
daily functions were primary concerns when assessing

treatment effectiveness, and mental/physical fatigue and

 Two patients completed high school/some college, two patients had an associate/bachelor degree, and one patient had a postgraduate degree

- Two and three patients lived in urban and suburban areas, respectively
- Additional aspects of disease considered important differed based on patient experience with each domain, e.g., prioritization of skin disease varied with the extent/location of skin involvement
- Related conditions (enthesitis, nails, dactylitis, plantar psoriasis, uveitis) were important due to high impact on daily life, and were viewed as under-recognized by the medical community

#### Patient Priorities When Assessing PsA Medication Effectiveness



Patients provided specific feedback as to why they prioritized prevention of joint damage, long-term effectiveness, fatigue,

Specific Patient Feedback on Greatest Concerns When Assessing Treatment Effectiveness



Patient Global Assessment (PGA) was viewed as the most valuable tool to assess improvement of PsA symptoms, as it captures the aspects of PsA most meaningful to individual patients

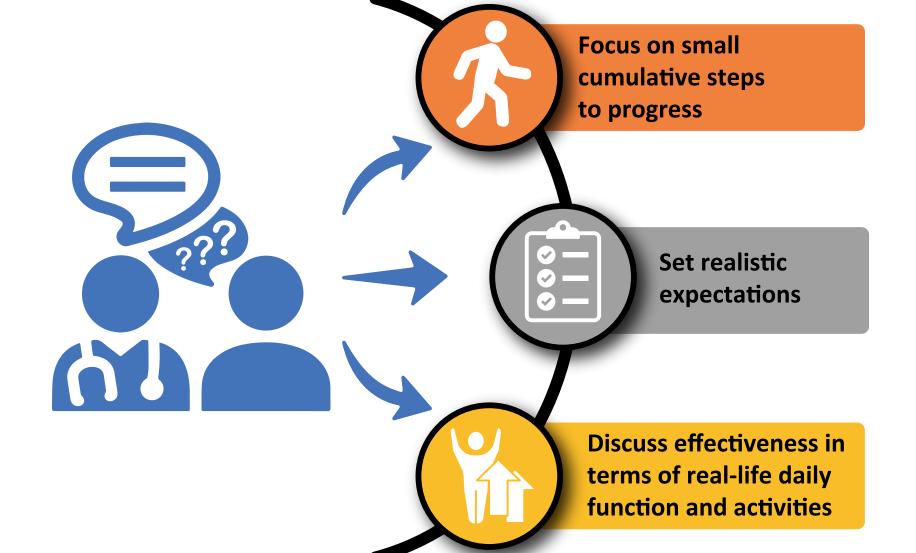
Patient Insights About Tools to Assess PsA Disease Activity **Patient insights Assessment tool** 

'I place the heaviest The PGA was considered the **Patient Global Assessment** most important familiar with it "Tender Joint Count is TJC was believed to **Tender Joint Count** obably bigger for me that reflect extent of joint even Patient Pain because in a specific place that can hurt worse than a big gash' Early improvements in pain were perceived as positive, but the measure does not pinpoint specific areas of pain sessment ... I've had Perceived as less useful; patients considered physicians less likely to understand their symptoms doctor thinks that my and may dismiss complaints

NRS=numerical rating scale; TJC=tender joint count; VAS=visual analog scale.

Discussing realistic timing and extent of improvements in specific activities that individual patients with PsA find difficult was the most effective way for HCPs to set treatment expectations

**Proposed Personalized Strategies for Communication With Patients About Treatment Expectations for PsA** 



**Analogies that describe personalized treatment expectations** as small steps toward progress and encourage patients to reflect on their individual cumulative gains were considered helpful

 HCPs who prepare patients for potential gradual onset of effect help level-set expectations and place less emphasis on importance of immediate treatment effect

Proposed Ladder Analogy to Encourage Patients to Reflect on Cumulative Gains in Progress

66 A ladder analogy would be a good way [to show] your feet are not on the ground anymore ... you don't have to think about the top rung - only about the next rung. ... if you got on the first rung, isn't it entirely possible that you can manage another one in time?

You're going to be able to do more things



Right now, you can barely get out of bed

References: 1. Gossec L. EULAR-Recommendations on the management of PsA. EULAR 2023 Annual Meeting Support was provided by Ify Sargeant of Twist Medical under the direction of the authors in accordance with Good Publication Practice guidelines (Ann Intern Med 2022; doi:10.7326/M22-1460). The authors would like to thank the patients who participated in Janssen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Bristol Myers Squib Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Immagene, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun, UCB, and UCB. **PR:** Consulting or speaker fees from AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB. **EIA-U:** Advisory board fees from Janssen. JLM: None to report. NJS: Employee of Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, a subsidiary of Johnson & John Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, and Viatris. LS: Employee of Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, a subsidiary of Johnson & **GKL:** Consulting and speaker fees from AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, CorEvitas, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Myriad, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB. Funding Statement: This presentation was supported by Janssen Research & Development, LLC. Presented at ISPOR 2024, May 5-8, Atlanta, GA.