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Novartis' Cosentyx superior to Stelara in delivering long-lasting skin clearance for psoriasis patients

Novartis announced on 5 March new late-breaking data from the head-to-head CLEAR study, demonstrating that Cosentyx (secukinumab) remains superior to Stelara (ustekinumab) in achieving sustained skin clearance (PASI 90 response) at 52 weeks for adults living with moderate-to-severe psoriasis. These findings were presented for the first time at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Cosentyx is the first fully human interleukin-17A inhibitor approved for adults to treat moderate-to-severe

plaque psoriasis, and was recently approved for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis in the EU and US.

"Cosentyx continues to demonstrate superior and sustainable efficacy against currently available biologics and is a proven first-line treatment option for adult patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis," said Vasant Narasimhan, Global Head, Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer, Novartis. "Cosentyx has the potential to give more people with psoriasis than ever before the benefit of long-lasting skin clearance."

The ultimate aim of psoriasis treatment is clear skin, and the Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) 90 response is considered an important measure of treatment success. Meeting all primary and secondary endpoints at weeks four, 16 and 52, Cosentyx demonstrated it remains consistently superior to Stelara in achieving and sustaining PASI 90 response, and significantly better in achieving PASI 100 (clear skin) response at 52 weeks. Cosentyx also showed significantly greater and sustained Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) 0/1 responses versus Stelara.