

Add Vascular Disease to List of Psoriasis Risks

BY MARY ANN MOON

People with psoriasis are at higher risk than others for a full range of atherosclerotic diseases, not just cardiovascular but also cerebrovascular and peripheral vascular diseases, according to a new report.

The magnitude of risk appears to be similar to that of other well-established cardiovascular risk factors such as dyslipidemia, smoking, hypertension, and diabetes, said Dr. Srdjan Prodanovich of the departments of dermatology and cutaneous surgery at the University of Miami and associates. In recent years,

psoriasis has been linked to myocardial infarction. Dr. Prodanovich and colleagues investigated whether the inflammatory skin disease could be associated with other manifestations of atherosclerosis as well. They assessed the prevalences of ischemic heart disease, cerebral vascular disease, and peripheral arterial disease in 3,236 patients with psoriasis and 2,500 nonpsoriatic control patients treated at the Miami VA Medical Center between 1985 and 2006.

After controlling for subject age, sex, and history of hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and smoking status, the researchers found that patients with psoriasis were approximately twice as likely as controls to have any of these types of vascular disease.

This finding "has tremendous and far-reaching clinical implications, as all of these vascular conditions represent a major financial cost to the health care system as well as a major cause of disability and death," they noted (Arch. Dermatol. 2009; 145:700-3).

Psoriasis was also found to be an independent risk factor for

death. Mortality was nearly 20% among patients with psoriasis, compared with 10% among patients in the control group.

Because this was an observational study, it could not be determined whether psoriasis and its attendant inflammation caused the atherosclerosis. Also unknown is whether aggressive treatment of either cardiovascular risk factors or psoriasis will improve patients' total atherosclerotic burden.

For the present, "we recommend that health care providers who are caring for patients with psoriasis be vigilant with respect to traditional [cardiovascular] risk factor screening.

"Many of these patients are cared for solely by dermatologists. It would be prudent for dermatologists to be familiar with suggested screening for cardiovascular risk factors and recommendations for aspirin use. If not, it is imperative that they work in collaboration with a primary care provider or another internal medicine specialist," Dr. Prodanovich and associates said.

"Clinicians caring for patients with this skin disorder should use a lower threshold when considering testing for peripheral arterial disease, carotid disease, or coronary artery disease in those with typical or atypical symptoms," they added.

The investigators reported no financial conflicts of interest. ■

'Clinicians caring for patients with this skin disorder should use a lower threshold when considering testing for peripheral arterial disease, carotid disease, or coronary artery disease.'

Best Practices In:

Treating Rosacea

a supplement supported by Galderma.

Available at:

[www.skinandallergynews.com/
content/bestpractices](http://www.skinandallergynews.com/content/bestpractices)

See page 11.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

ELIOT BATTLE JR., M.D., Howard University, Washington, D.C.

LESLIE S. BAUMANN, M.D., University of Miami

DAVID E. COHEN, M.D., New York University, N.Y.

SUZANNE M. CONNOLLY, M.D., Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Ariz.

DIRK M. ELSTON, M.D., Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa.

RICHARD G. GLOGAU, M.D., University of California, San Francisco

NEIL S. GOLDBERG, M.D., Private practice, Bronxville, N.Y.

ALICE B. GOTTLIEB, M.D., Tufts University, Boston

ADELAIDE A. HEBERT, M.D., University of Texas, Houston

BROOKE ASHLEY-ANN JACKSON, M.D., Northwestern University, Chicago

RONALD P. RAPINI, M.D., University of Texas, Houston

RANDALL K. ROENIGK, M.D., Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

ROBERTA D. SENGLMANN, M.D., Private practice, Santa Barbara, Calif.

ROBERT A. WEISS, M.D., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

Skin & Allergy News

President, IMNG Alan J. Imhoff

Editor in Chief Mary Jo M. Dales

Executive Editors Denise Fulton, Kathy Scarbeck

Managing Editor Amy Pfeiffer

Deputy Managing Editor Richard Franki

Senior Editors Christina Chase, Kathryn DeMott, Lori Buckner Farmer, Joyce Frieden, Catherine Hackett, Keith Haglund, Gina L. Henderson, Sally Koch Kubetin, Teresa Lassman, Mark S. Lesney, Jane Salodof MacNeil, Catherine Cooper Nellist, Calvin Pierce, Terry Rudd, Elizabeth Wood

Associate Editors Felicia Rosenblatt Black, Therese Borden, Lorinda Bullock, Jay C. Cherniak, Virginia Ingram-Wells, Jane Locastro, Renée Matthews, Denise Napoli, Carol Nicotera-Ward, Leanne Sullivan

Reporters Chicago: Patrice Wendling; Denver: Bruce Jancin; London: Jonathan Gardner; Los Angeles: Betsy Bates; Miami: Damian McNamara; Mid-Atlantic: Michele G. Sullivan; New England: Diana Mahoney; New York: Mary Ellen Schneider; Philadelphia: Mitchel L. Zoler; San Diego: Doug Brunk; San Francisco: Sherry Boschert, Robert Finn; Washington: Alicia Ault, Jeff Evans, Elizabeth Mechcatie, Heidi Splete, Miriam E. Tucker, Kerri Wachter

Contributing Writers Christine Kilgore, Mary Ann Moon

Editorial Offices 5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 6000, Rockville, MD 20852, 877-524-9336, sknews@elsevier.com

SKIN & ALLERGY NEWS is an independent newspaper that provides the practicing dermatologist with timely and relevant news and commentary about clinical developments in the field and about the impact of health care policy on the specialty and the physician's practice.

The ideas and opinions expressed in SKIN & ALLERGY NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher. Elsevier Inc. will not assume responsibility for damages, loss, or claims of any kind arising from or related to the information contained in this publication, including any claims related to the products, drugs, or services mentioned herein.

POSTMASTER Send changes of address (with old mailing label) to SKIN & ALLERGY NEWS Circulation, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, 2nd fl., Morristown, NJ 07960.

SKIN & ALLERGY NEWS (ISSN 0037-6337) is published monthly by Elsevier Inc., 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, 2nd fl., Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-290-8200, fax 973-290-8250. Subscription price is \$103.00 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Morristown, NJ, and additional offices.

Founding Publisher: Jack O. Scher
Founding Editor: William Rubin

Executive Director, Operations Jim Chicca
Director, Production/Manufacturing Yvonne Evans

Production Manager Judi Sheffer

Production Specialists Anthony Draper, Rebecca Slebodnik

Information Technology Manager Doug Sullivan
Senior Systems Administrator Lee J. Unger

Systems Administrator/Application Support Peter Ayinde

Creative Director Louise A. Koenig

Design Supervisor Elizabeth Byrne Lobdell

Senior Designers Sarah L. Gallant, Julie Keller

Designer Lisa M. Marfori

Photo Editor Catherine Harrell

Project Manager Susan D. Hite

Assignments Manager Megan Evans

Accounts Payable Coordinator Daniela Silva

V.P., Med. Ed./Bus. Development Sylvia H. Reitman

Program Manager, Med. Ed. Malika Wicks

Circulation Analyst Barbara Cavallaro, 973-290-8253, b.cavallaro@elsevier.com

Marketing Associate Jennifer Savo

Director of Sales Mark E. Altier, 973-290-8220, m.altier@elsevier.com

National Account Manager Sally Cioci, 973-290-8215, fax 973-290-8250, s.cioci@elsevier.com

Business Controller Dennis Quirk

Adv. Services Manager Joan Friedman

Credit Supervisor Patricia H. Ramsey

Manager, Admin./Conventions Lynne Kalish

Receptionist Linda Wilson

Advertising Offices 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, 2nd fl., Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-290-8200, fax 973-290-8250

Classified Sales Manager Andrea LaMonica, 800-381-0569, fax 914-381-0573, a.lamonica@elsevier.com

Classified Advertising Offices 1120 Jensen Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, 800-381-0569

Address Changes Fax change of address (with old mailing label) to 973-290-8245 or e-mail change to subs@elsevier.com

Reprints Call 240-221-2419

©Copyright 2009, by Elsevier Inc.

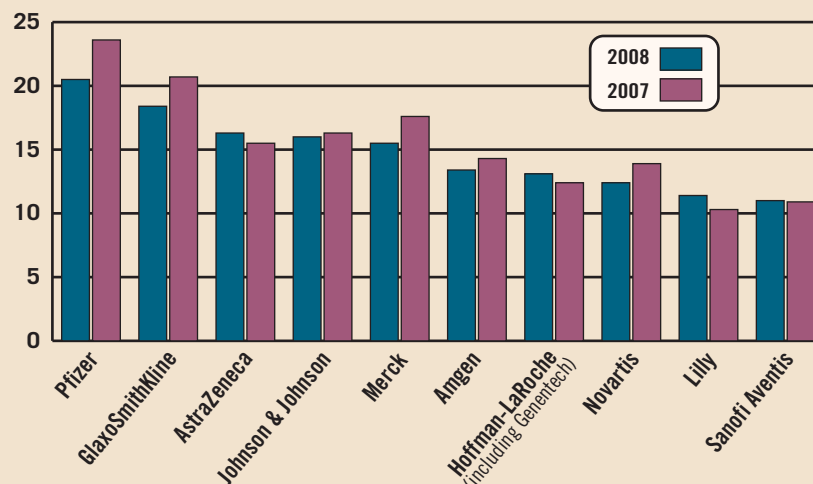


INTERNATIONAL
MEDICAL NEWS
GROUP



VITAL SIGNS

Top 10 Pharmaceutical Companies by U.S. Sales (in billions)



Source: IMS Health