

27 February 2023

Biologic Medications within Dermatology and early Melanoma

Q1. I am researching the usage of Pembrolizumab for the treatment of Melanoma. How many patients have you treated with Pembrolizumab in the three months from October to December 2022 for:

- Melanoma - any stage : **49**
- Melanoma - Stage IIb/IIc : **<5**
- Melanoma - Stage III : **23**
- Melanoma – Metastatic : **21**

NB there was also 1 = 1B

Q2. How many Stage IIb/IIc melanoma patients were on a "Watch and Wait" strategy in the three months from October to December 2022? These would be patients where a decision has been made to wait before commencing any treatment.

We do not have any stage IIB/IIC patients where a decision is actively made to 'wait before commencing any treatment'. There may be patients who need updated scans or more clinical information for a decision to be made, or in some cases patients elect to take some time to think about their options before they make a decision, but essentially the decision at final assessment is either for (adjuvant) treatment to proceed, or not to proceed at all.

The 'watch and wait' term is usually used for people who have active disease that needs treatment which is not given yet but observed instead - whereas these stage IIB/IIC patients do not necessarily need treatment at all. Those not proceeding are not waiting before commencing treatment starts as many will not need any intervention at all and have been cured by their surgery, rather they are going on to get follow up (surveillance) only, and treatment only given if they develop recurrence.

For those that do go on to follow up surveillance after surgery. This data may be held by colleagues in surgery or plastics.

There were no available treatments before end of October NICE approval for stage 2 melanoma adjuvant Pembro.

Q3. Could you please tell me how many patients were treated in January 2023 (or latest available month) by the dermatology department with the following drugs:

- Abrocitinib (Cibinqo) : **<5**
- Baricitinib (Olumiant) : **<5**
- Dupilumab (Dupixent) : **119**

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- Tralokinumab (Adtralza) : **<5**
- Upadacitinib (Rinvoq): **14**

We are unable to provide an exact figure where numbers are very low, <5. To provide this level of information would reduce numbers to discoverable limits where the patients could be identifiable. This is because many of these drugs are high cost and prescribed on a named patient basis. Pharmaceutical companies, would be aware of this.

This is exempt from release under section 40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party, of the FOI Act.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.