

**Review of NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance Nos 103/ 134/ 146; on the use of etanercept and efalizumab for the treatment of adults with psoriasis, infliximab for the treatment of psoriasis and adalimumab for the treatment of psoriasis.**

**Response from the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD)**

The BAD feels that a Mixed Technology Appraisal of all biologic agents for psoriasis would be appropriate and helpful. However we are in agreement with the proposal to defer this until 2010 for the following reasons:

1. Deferring the appraisal is likely to increase the evidence base for the appraisal
2. The BAD guideline on the use of biologics is currently being updated and is due to be published in 2009.
3. Long term therapy is important for a chronic disease and longer term data on safety and efficacy is increasingly becoming available.
4. Such an appraisal could take account of how the biologics have been used in clinical practice and experience from switching agents when one is not effective may be very useful in informing the preferred order.
5. Having access to a choice of different agents is considered very important as there is no means as yet of predicting response to different agents. In the longer term genetic tests may predict disease response and allow a better targeting of the right therapy to the right patient.
6. There are new agents and studies on the horizon and it would be best to wait for them. These include ustekinumab (which has a different mode of action) and active comparator studies which should help inform practice.

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