Treatment satisfaction and Quality of Life in Korean Moderate to Severe AD Patients based on Current Targeted Therapy

Author

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Learning Objectives:

- Patients with severe AD who received targeted therapy reported greater satisfaction with both treatment effectiveness and overall therapeutic experience, compared to non-targeted group.
- QoL assessment should incorporate a broader range of factors—such as demographic characteristics, clinical features, and reimbursement status—beyond what is captured by DLQI/CDLQI scores alone.

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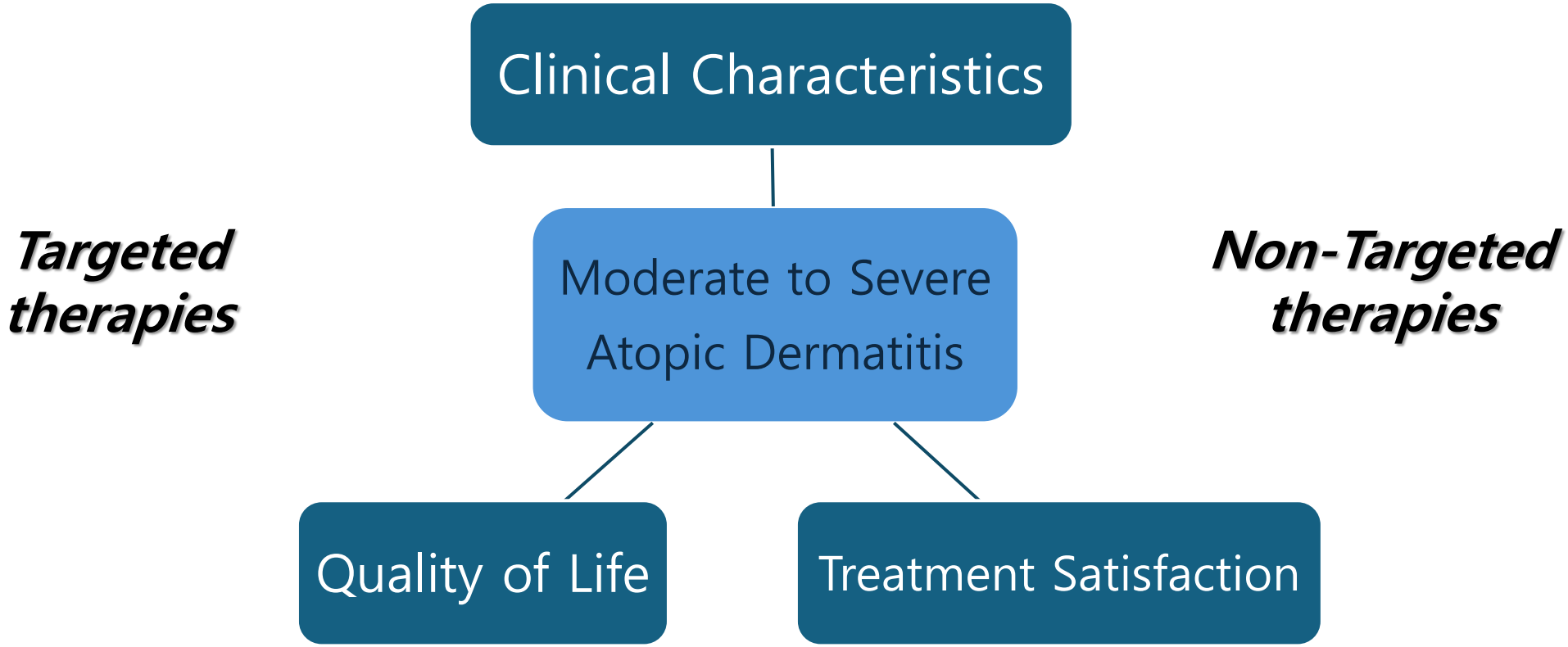
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

This study is sponsored by Pfizer Korea Ltd.

Objectives of Presentation

The purpose of this presentation is to share the findings of our study, which evaluated the clinical characteristics, quality of life, and treatment satisfaction among patients with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, comparing outcomes between targeted and non-targeted therapies.



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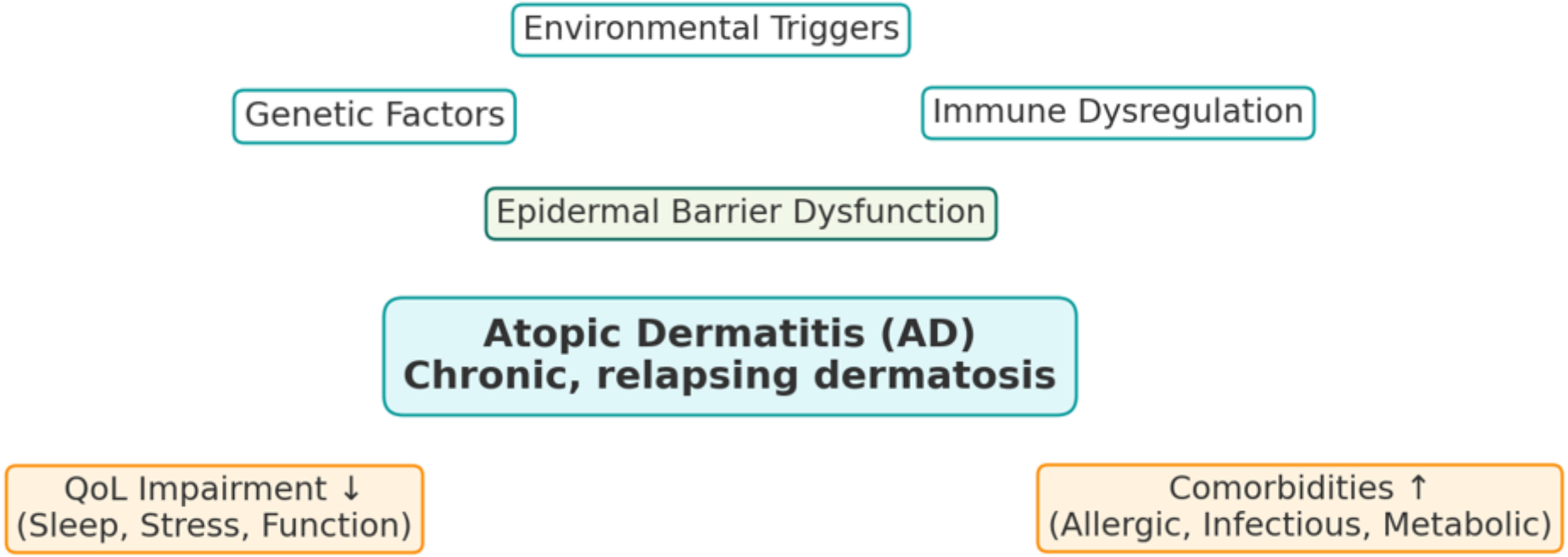
Introduction



Despite the availability of targeted therapies—such as biologics and Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors—that have demonstrated efficacy in improving clinical outcomes and patient-reported measures, ***access to these treatments remains uneven across healthcare systems***.

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Introduction

In **Korea, reimbursement for targeted AD therapies** is currently **restricted to patients classified as severe based on Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI) criteria**. Consequently, **patients with moderate disease**, who also experience substantial disease burden, face **limited access due to high out-of-pocket costs**, contributing to increased economic strain and **unmet therapeutic needs.**

We aimed to investigate the clinical features, QoL, and treatment satisfaction among patients with moderate-to-severe AD, and to explore the ***differential impact of targeted*** versus ***conventional systemic therapies on patient-centered outcomes.***

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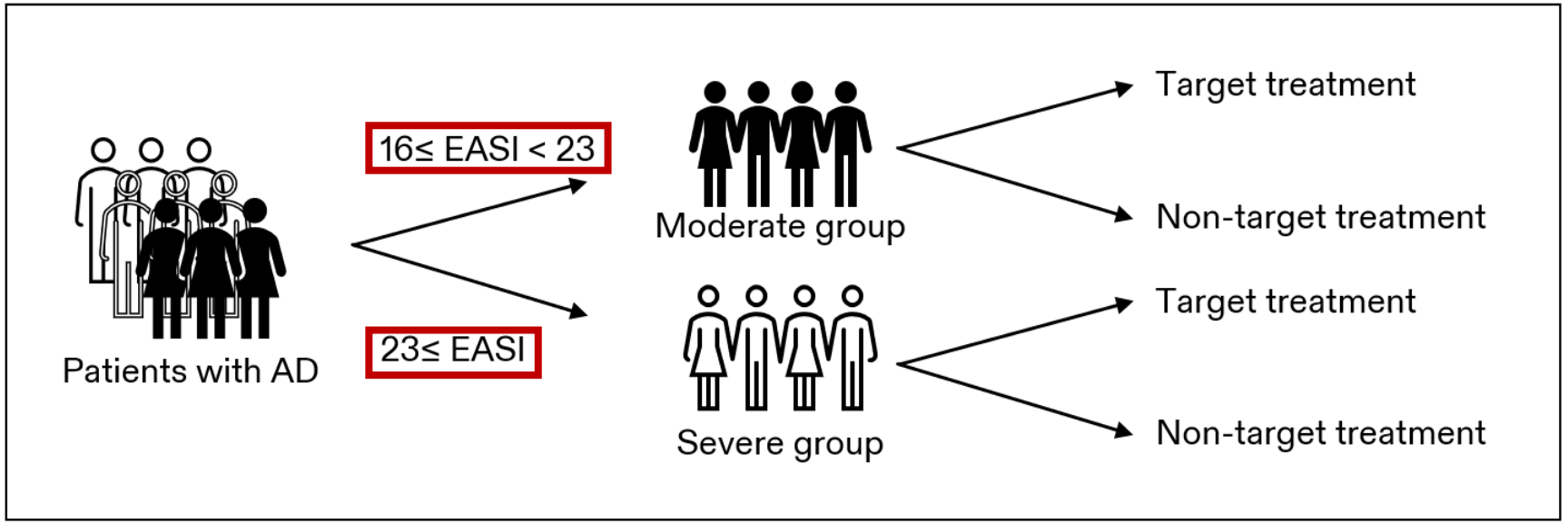
Methods

1. Study Design

Non-interventional, hybrid study (medical chart review + patient survey)

2. Patient Enrollment and Classification

Between October 2023 and April 2024, **a total of 171 subjects** were enrolled in the study. Patients diagnosed with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis were classified into moderate and severe groups based on their Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI) scores. Each severity group was **further stratified according to treatment type**—those receiving **targeted (JAK inhibitor** and **dupilumab) therapy** and those receiving **non-targeted (conventional systemic) treatment**.



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Methods

2-1) Inclusion Criteria

Patients must meet **all** of the following inclusion criteria to be eligible for inclusion in the study:

1. Patients who have been diagnosed with **moderate or severe atopic dermatitis**
2. **≥ 12 years old**
3. Patients who have been treated with the **current treatment for 12 weeks or longer**, **but less than 24 weeks**
   (continuously treated with current treatment at least 12 weeks not more than 24 weeks)
   [A] Moderate group: defined by EASI score* (16 ≤ EASI <23)
   [B] Severe group: defined by EASI score* (EASI ≥ 23)
   *EASI score: The first EASI score of the last treatment (currently being treated)

2-2) Exclusion Criteria

Patients meeting any of the following criteria will not be included in the study:

1. Patients participating in other clinical studies in Dermatology
2. Patients on their current treatment as off-label

3. Variables

Demographic characteristics (age, gender, economic level,…), **DLQI** (Dermatology Life Quality Index), **CDLQI** (Children's Dermatology Life Quality Index), **TSQM** (Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication), **WPAI** (Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire), **EQ-5D-5L** (EuroQol 5-Dimension 5-Level), **EQ-5D-Y** (Youth version), **EQ-VAS** (Visual Analogue Scale)

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Results

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients (Moderate group vs Severe group)

Characteristics	Total (N = 171)	Moderate group (n = 84)	Severe group (n=87)	p-value
Age (year), mean±sd	26.4±8.9	27.3±9.9	25.5±7.7	0.313
Gender, n (%)				
Male	120(66.7%)	**53(63.10%)**	**67(77.01%)**	0.069
Female	51(29.8%)	31(36.90%)	20(22.99%)	
EASI score, mean±sd	**21.9±5.6**	**17.1±1.5**	**26.6±3.9**	<0.001
Duration of disease (month), mean±sd	73.1±77.2	54.4±66.2	91.0±82.9	<0.001
Family history, n(%)	N = 165	n = 82	n = 83	
Yes	55(33.3%)	19(23.2%)	36(43.4%)	0.010
No	110(66.7%)	63(76.8%)	47(56.6%)	

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Results

Table 2. Comparison of Patient-Reported-Outcomes

		Moderate group					Severe group				
			Non-targeted		Targeted			Non-targeted		Targeted	
Characteristics	Total (n = 171)	N	(n = 56)	N	(n = 28)	p-value	N	(n = 44)	N	(n = 43)	p-value
DLQI OR CDLQI	7.5±6.4	55	6.7±4.8	28	8.1±7.6	0.813	43	9.7±8.2	43	6.0±4.9	0.058
TSQM		55		28			44		43		
Effectiveness	65.4±18.4		62.1±16.4		70.2±18.3	0.062		57.3±19.5		74.7±14.8	**<.001**
Side effects	92.2±15.5		93.0±16.5		88.8±15.7	**0.034**		89.3±18.6		96.4±8.3	0.096
Convenience	73.8±19.3		76.6±18.5		76.0±20.8	0.865		68.9±18.8		73.3±19.4	0.223
Global satisfaction	63.6±21.3		62.6±19.2		68.1±22.1	0.235		52.4±21.0		73.3±18.4	**<.001**
WPAI											
Absenteeism-5L	3.0±6.0	28	3.7±6.7	13	2.1±5.7	0.236	17	4.1±6.8	17	1.2±4.1	0.196
Presenteeism	43.6±23.2	29	46.2±22.4	13	37.7±26.5	0.238	17	54.1±24.5	17	32.9±15.7	**0.009**
Work productivity loss	44.3±23.4	28	46.6±22.5	13	38.4±26.8	0.285	17	56.0±23.7	17	33.4±16.5	**0.003**
Activity impairment	45.1±25.9	54	41.7±21.8	28	41.8±29.6	0.577	44	55.9±28.4	43	40.7±23.1	**0.012**

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Results

Moderate AD Group (16 ≤ EASI <23)

More likely to receive targeted therapy if presenting with

- Lichenification (**82.1%** vs. 30.4%, *p < 0.01*)
- Erythema (**39.3%** vs. 16.1%, *p = 0.04*)

DLQI/CDLQI: No difference between therapies

TSQM: **Side effect** domain higher in non-targeted Tx (*p = 0.03*)

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Results

Severe AD Group (23 ≤ EASI)

DLQI/CDLQI: No difference between therapies

Targeted therapy → Higher TSQM

- Effectiveness & Global Satisfatcion ($p < 0.01$)

Targeted therapy → Work Productivity (WPAI) improved:

- Presenteeism ↑ ($p = 0.009$)
- Productivity Loss ↓ ($p = 0.003$)
- Activity Impairment ↓ ($p = 0.012$)

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Conclusion

Patients with **severe AD** who received **targeted therapy** reported **greater satisfaction** with both **treatment effectiveness** and **overall therapeutic experience**, compared to non-targeted group.

In cases of **moderate AD** presenting with **lichenification and erythema**, **targeted therapy may also be considered** as a viable treatment option.

The **marginal differences in quality of life (QoL) observed between severity groups** suggest that **QoL assessment should incorporate a broader range of factors**—such as demographic characteristics, clinical features, and reimbursement status—beyond what is captured by DLQI/CDLQI scores alone.

Given the nature of **survey-based research**, potential **biases** such as recall bias, response bias, and selection bias may have **influenced the findings**.

Furthermore, as this study was designed as a **cross-sectional survey**, it **did not fully capture the seasonal variability in symptom presentation** commonly observed in patients with atopic dermatitis.

Further studies involving a larger population of patients with moderate atopic dermatitis—focusing on their quality of life, treatment satisfaction, and productivity loss—may **provide deeper insights into the disease burden** associated with **being classified as moderate AD**, **particularly due to the lack of reimbursement eligibility**.

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Q & A

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