Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in lipid profiles in patients with psoriasis: a population-based analysis

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2012

Reviewer: Aldona Pietrzak

Reviewer’s report:

1. Please include comparison of lipid levels between males and females as well as between statin users and those without any lipid-lowering treatments. I couldn’t find it in the tables.

2. It seems that figures section had been doubled.

3. I don’t agree with fourth answer – I still believe that it is worth to perform metanalysis and compare lipid profiles and trends between psoriatic patients in Your study and results of similar papers concerning lipid levels in psoriasis.

4. Please discuss and explain: LDL and TC declining with the age? (usually levels of TC and LDL are increasing with age – this is general trend in population – also ‘healthy’ without chronic inflammation).

5. Please explain and discuss: HDL increasing levels of HDL – usually HDL is decreasing with age, and what is more important in almost all papers concerning lipid levels in psoriasis.

6. This one I cant understand: on the page 5 authors say:

The proportion of psoriasis patients with abnormal HDL declined significantly over the entire study period and the proportion of non-psoriasis subjects with abnormal HDL declined significantly in the 5 years after index date (p<0.01), but not during the 5 years prior to index date.

However on the page 9 there is such a statement:

Also, although the proportions of patients with psoriasis and non-psoriasis subjects with abnormal HDL did not change significantly over the study period, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of non-psoriasis subjects with abnormal HDL in the 5 years after index date (p=0.002).

7. I strongly suggest to include BMI into analysis – this is the major weakness of Your study: to compare lipid levels not considering BMI in such analysis – the lipid metabolism is quite different between obese and non-obese individuals (the
role adipokines in psoriasis) – That may be the reason for such a unusual results.

8. Psoriatis patients may loose up to 1-2 g of lipids with desquamating scales each day so it would be reasonable to also include PASI score into analysis.

9. The paper is hard to understand as authors are comparing levels (mg/dl) - significant decline LDL, TC, and in some other part proportions of patients.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest.