Author’s response to reviews

Title: A multi-item Physician Global Assessment scale to assess psoriasis disease severity: validation based on four phase III tofacitinib studies

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. In both the Methods and the Ethics approval and consent to participate section, please include the full name of the ethics committee (and the institute to which it belongs to) that approved your study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate.

1. Due to the multicenter nature of the studies pooled in this manuscript, it is not possible to include the full list of ethics committees in the Methods section of the manuscript. An additional file with the full list of ethics committees has been generated, and reference to this has been included on pages 9 (line 168) and page 21 (line 370).

2. Please clarify whether any administrative permissions were required to access the raw data from the trials you looked at in your study, If so please state who granted permission in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section.

2. As all the studies included in this analysis and the associated publication were sponsored by Pfizer Inc, and include Pfizer authors and study investigators, it was not necessary to seek any administrative permissions to access the raw data.

Further information on data sharing can be found in the Availability of data and material section on page 21 (lines 372–384).

3. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.
3. The following text has been added to the Conclusions section of the manuscript (page 20, lines 353-357): “Conclusions: Consistent with previous findings from a phase II study, these results provide needed confirmation and reassurance for a clinician on the suitability of the three-item PGA scale as a reliable, valid measure to obtain a global assessment on the severity of plaque psoriasis in clinical studies.”

4. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

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Response: This manuscript contains a Declarations section, which includes the mandatory subsections (pages 20–23; lines 363–413).