

## **Biologics in the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis, Alopecia Areata, and More**

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Biologics, also known as monoclonal antibodies, are drugs made from living sources, including humans, animals, plants, fungi, and microbes, and are changing the way practitioners treat a number of dermatologic conditions. Two biologics approved for the treatment of moderate-severe AD, dupilumab and tralokinumab, work by targeting and blocking specific proteins in the body, called cytokines, binding tightly to prevent them from doing their damage that can result in atopic dermatitis (AD). Dupilumab and tralokinumab, as injectables, are currently approved by the FDA to treat AD, but several other monoclonal antibodies are being studied for possible future FDA approvals.

Dupilumab has also shown early success in treating prurigo nodularis (PN), an inflammatory skin disease that is characterized by firm, isolated papules and nodules. A study published in *Frontiers in Immunology* earlier this year that reviewed dupilumab-related treatment outcomes for PN found that dupilumab demonstrated both efficacy and safety in PN treatment for this patient population.

Biologics have indeed become an exciting therapeutic area to watch. Noted study authors in an article published in *Current Allergy Asthma Reports* back in 2022, “Biologics and small molecule inhibitors (SMIs) are a rapidly growing class of highly efficacious therapies in the treatment of chronic immunologic and allergic conditions. With precision targeting of inflammatory signaling molecules, these new agents selectively modulate the immune system to treat a variety of conditions. Dermatologic diseases, including atopic dermatitis and psoriasis, are of particular interest due to the growing number of new biologics and SMIs in recent years.”

Finally, a recent article published by the National Eczema Association notes, “The availability of new biologics will add to the growing options for patients with moderate-to-severe AD.”

To learn more about biologics in the treatment of a number of dermatologic conditions, sign up for the Revolutionizing Alopecia Areata, Vitiligo, and Eczema conferences, taking place June 8-10, in Chicago, Illinois. Don't miss out!