

Poor persistence/Adherence with long-term topical AK treatment

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(HealthDay)—A considerable proportion of patients with actinic

keratosis (AK) receiving long-term topical treatment have poor persistence or adherence, according to a study published online April 18 in the *British Journal of Dermatology*.

Sandra Erntoft, from LEO Pharma A/S in Denmark, and colleagues conducted a longitudinal study to examine self-reported patient adherence and persistence behavior with topical AK therapies. An online survey was conducted in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom from October 2012 to May 2013 among 224 [patients](#) with clinically confirmed AK who had been prescribed self-administered topical AK therapy starting one week before/after the baseline questionnaire.

The researchers found that 57 percent of patients reported a current prescription of diclofenac sodium. For each treatment, the mean recalled treatment duration was consistent with the label-recommended treatment duration. Overall, 72.3 percent of patients reported remaining on baseline treatment until the survey end (10 to 12 weeks post-treatment initiation). Twenty-three, 18, and 31 percent of patients were non-persistent, persistent, and over-persistent; for 28 percent, persistence was unknown. Most of the non-persistent subjects stopped treatment early during the course of [treatment](#). Seventy-five percent of patients were adherent to both recalled frequency and regularity; more than 80 percent were adherent to one or the other.

"This study suggests patients receiving long-duration topical therapies experience issues that negatively impact adherence and [persistence](#)," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to Leo Pharma A/S, which funded the study.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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