

Secukinumab effective for moderate / severe scalp psoriasis

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(HealthDay)—Secukinumab is safe and effective as a treatment for

patients with extensive moderate-to-severe scalp psoriasis, according to a study published in the October issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Jerry Bagel, M.D., from the Psoriasis Treatment Center of Central New Jersey in East Windsor, and colleagues conducted a 24-week, double-blind, phase 3b study in which 102 patients were randomized to subcutaneous secukinumab (300 mg) or placebo at baseline; weeks 1, 2, and 3; and then every four weeks from week 4 to 20.

The researchers found that at week 12, 90 percent improvement of the Psoriasis Scalp Severity Index score was seen in 52.9 percent of the secukinumab group versus 2 percent of the [placebo group](#). In addition, Investigator's Global Assessment modified 2011 scalp responses of 0 or 1 were 56.9 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively, with secukinumab and placebo. Significantly more patients achieved complete clearance of scalp [psoriasis](#) at week 12 with secukinumab 300 mg compared with placebo (35.3 percent versus 0 percent). The safety of [secukinumab](#) was consistent with other phase 3 studies.

"Secukinumab is efficacious and well-tolerated for patients with extensive moderate-to-severe scalp psoriasis," conclude the authors.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies, including Novartis Pharmaceuticals, which funded the study.

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