INTRODUCTION

Acne vulgaris (AV) is the most common inflammatory skin disorder seen in outpatient dermatology clinics in the United States. Both adolescents and adults of all races and genders are frequently affected. In addition to the impact of AV on physical appearance, there are several adverse psychosocial consequences that impair quality of life. Continued patient compliance with topical therapies is a recognized barrier to optimal treatment of chronic disorders such as AV. Patient satisfaction with a topical vehicle formulation strongly influences adherence with treatment.1–4 Tazarotene 0.1% foam is the only retinoid approved for use in a foam vehicle and is well established as an effective, safe, and well tolerated topical treatment for AV.2,3 Data from the Phase III studies evaluating tazarotene 0.1% foam for AV supported positive patient experiences with both therapeutic outcomes and formulation characteristics.4 These overall positive patient experiences from clinical trial patients in a controlled setting prompted a subsequent analysis using a series of surveys administered to current users of tazarotene 0.1% foam to gather perspectives on its use in “real world” clinical practice. Patients with AV on the face and/or trunk who were being treated with tazarotene 0.1% foam were asked to rate their experiences of using the product over the course of 12 weeks.

METHODS

• Around 3000 survey kits were distributed across the USA to capture data from diverse geographical areas and climates
• Two waves of the survey were administered in order to capture use in the winter months as well as non-winter months
• Surveys were administered at baseline, weeks 2, 4, 8, and 12
• Feedback was gathered on overall patient satisfaction with use of the product, perceived therapeutic impact on AV, and topical vehicle preference
• After registering at baseline patients completed surveys within 3 days of the 2, 4, 8, and 12 week dates to ensure feedback was gathered at the specific time points
• Patient responses were gathered and tabulated by a third party vendor to ensure accuracy of reporting and objectivity of analysis
• A total of 372 patients participated in the surveys through week 12 with a broad range of diversity across gender, age, and race (not all responded to every question; n = values + number of respondents to each question in results graphs)

RESULTS

In the 12 week survey, participants were asked “Overall how satisfied are you with tazarotene 0.1% Foam?”. Satisfaction rates increased from Week 4 to Week 12 and of the 371 patients who responded to this question at Week 12, 71% stated they were either very satisfied or satisfied with tazarotene 0.1% foam and 69% were satisfied with the clearance of acne achieved during the survey period. While satisfaction was favorable overall the highest levels were reported by the following subgroups: female patients, those who used the product on their face only, those who used the product in winter, and those who used the product most consistently. Satisfaction increased slightly with age, however the difference between the 3 sub-groups of age was quite low. The same can be seen across the various races who participated in the surveys. While non-white respondents reported slightly higher levels of satisfaction, the differences between the sub-groups are also low. While common perception is that foams are suited better to large treatment areas and topical retinoids are poorly tolerated on the face, 77% of participants in these surveys were using tazarotene 0.1% foam on the face and the data showed higher satisfaction levels in those using the product on the face only vs. those using it on the trunk only or face and trunk. When satisfaction was rated based on season of use, tazarotene 0.1% foam again showed results that contradict traditional views that topical retinoids are not well tolerated in the dry winter months. In these satisfaction was very similar regardless of season of use, with participants using the product during the winter months actually rating satisfaction slightly higher. Participants who reported using the product daily or every other day on every survey were defined as ‘Consistent Use’ (n=215). Those who marked an option other than daily or every other day on any survey were defined as ‘Only Inconsistent Use’ (n=156). Patients in the ‘Consistent Use’ group reported slightly greater satisfaction rates, which aligns with expectations that consistent use or adherence to treatment regimen should result in increased satisfaction with treatment outcomes.

Patient satisfaction with the product increased over the course of 12 weeks and dissatisfaction remained very low throughout. At week 12, 71% of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with tazarotene 0.1% foam and 67% indicating that they were likely or very likely to continue use of the product while 6% stated they were unlikely to continue.1,2,4,5

Patients were asked to rate a number of qualities of tazarotene 0.1% foam at all time points during the surveys. The product rated very strongly, largely as excellent or good, in all attributes with the exception of moisturizing. However, given that topical retinoids have been historically considered to be drying, a total of 32% of respondents ranking “moisturizing” as excellent or good speaks favorably to the novel tazarotene 0.1% foam vehicle.

Patients were asked to rate the number of adverse events that occurred during their usage of the foam for acne treatment, with “very satisfied” indicating no events, all the way to “very dissatisfied” indicating more than 8 adverse events. Only 14% of patients reported “very dissatisfied”.

CONCLUSION

The data presented here, captured from patients who had completed 12 weeks of treatment using the novel foam formulation of tazarotene 0.1% foam, represents a significant sample size with diversity across gender, age, and race. These results contradict many prior assertions regarding topical tazarotene products. Patient satisfaction levels increased over the treatment period and after 12 weeks of treatment were consistently high across gender, age, and race regardless of the time of year the treatment was used and the area of the body being treated, and were higher with consistent use vs. inconsistent use.

Overall, these real-world responses support the results of patient questionnaires from the Phase III studies, with tazarotene 0.1% foam being rated by a strong majority of patients as an effective, tolerable, and easy-to-use treatment option for AV of the face and body.

REFERENCES


DISCLOSURE

1. JDR Dermatology Research/Thomas Dermatology, Las Vegas, NV; Tuoro University, Henderson, NV; 2. Skin Wellness Dermatology, Birmingham, AL; University of Alabama Birmingham, AL; 3. Gilly Communications, Raleigh, NC. 4. Mylan Pharma, Greenville, NC. These surveys and analysis were sponsored by Mylan Pharma.