Alefacept: potential new therapy for patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To summarise the available evidence on alefacept, a potential new therapy for patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis.

Authors' conclusions
- Alefacept is a new biotechnology product designed for the treatment of patients with chronic plaque-type psoriasis who have disease severe enough to make them eligible for phototherapy or systemic therapy.

- In two randomized controlled phase III trials of patients with moderate-to-severe disease, alefacept showed a modest but statistically significant increase in the number of responders compared to placebo.

- Alefacept's dose-dependent CD4+ T lymphocyte-depleting effect requires monitoring; however, no association has been found between this adverse effect and serious adverse events, particularly infection.

- Due to lack of direct comparative data, it is difficult to predict exactly how alefacept will fit into the current rotational psoriasis therapy paradigm.

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