Adalimumab Biosimilar Implementation Among Health System Specialty Pharmacies

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Background

- Since January 2023, the U.S. market has grown to **10 approved adalimumab biosimilars.**
- **Health-system specialty pharmacies (HSSPs)** play a key role in supporting biosimilar implementation through financial navigation and operational support, despite clinical and operational complexity.

Methods

- **Setting:** five HSSPs
- **Design:** multicenter, ambispective, observational, cohort study
- **Patients:** patients prescribed adalimumab reference product or adalimumab biosimilar
  - Dispensed by HSSP between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024
  - Follow-up through June 30, 2025

Primary Objective: evaluate implementation and uptake of biosimilar adalimumab across multiple HSSPs

- **Data Analysis:** descriptive statistics and regression analysis
- Institutional Review Board exemption was granted at participating sites

Conclusions

- **Most patients remained on originator adalimumab**, with only 7.9% of patients undergoing a switch to a biosimilar.
- **Switches required greater access support** reflected by higher copay assistance utilization.
- Switching patterns were largely **insurance-driven**, with Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries demonstrating significantly lower odds of switching.

Table 2. Access Outcomes

	Reference Product Continuation (n = 2,000)	Reference Product New Start (n = 1,156)	Biosimilar New Start (n = 149)	Switch to Biosimilar (n = 285)
Copay Assistance Utilized – no. (%)	819 (41.0)	426 (36.9)	103 (69.1)	241 (84.6)
TAT Reference Product (d) – median [Q1 – Q3]	30.0 [6.0 – 89.0]	7.0 [1.0 – 16.0]	N/A	20.0 [4.0 – 88.0]
TAT Biosimilar (d) – median [Q1 – Q3]	N/A	N/A	3.0 [1.0 – 7.0]	10.0 [4.0 – 20.0]

TAT = turnaround time; data unavailable for 3 patients

Results

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics

n = 3,590	
Age (yr) – median [Q1 – Q3]	45.7 [32 – 59]
Female sex – no. (%)	2,286 (63.7)
Race – no. (%)	
• White	2,973 (82.8)
• Black or African American	358 (10.0)
• Other	259 (7.2)
Diagnosis – no. (%)[a]	
• Rheumatoid Arthritis	1,031 (28.7)
• Crohn's Disease	580 (16.2)
• Psoriatic Arthritis	513 (14.3)
• Plaque Psoriasis	349 (9.7)
• Ankylosing Spondylitis	310 (8.6)
• Other[b]	940 (26.2)
Insurance – no. (%)[c]	
• Commercial	1,792 (49.9)
• Medicaid	1,001 (27.9)
• Medicare	725 (20.2)
• Other	72 (2.0)

[a] Patients may have multiple adalimumab-treated diagnoses.
[b] Includes hidradenitis suppurativa, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, uveitis, ulcerative colitis, and off-label use.
[c] Primary insurance at time of index prescription.

Figure 1. Patient Categories

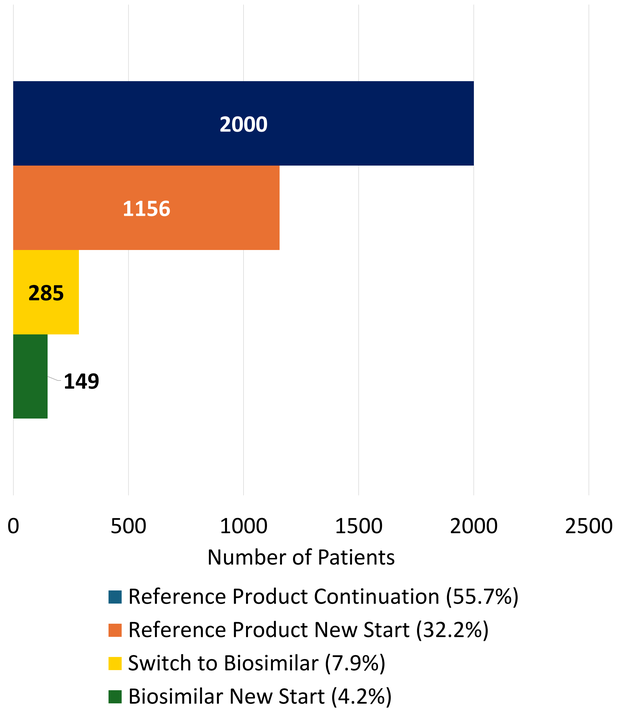
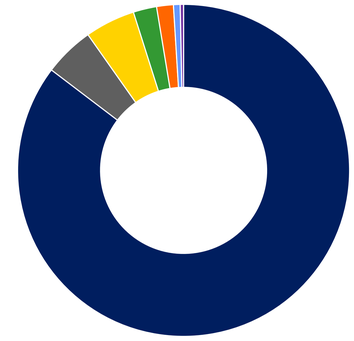


Figure 2. Reason for Switch



n = 285 patients (7.9%)
Total Instances = 307

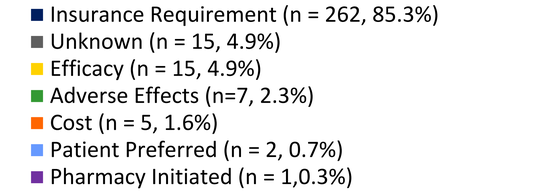


Figure 3. Multivariable Predictors of Humira to Biosimilar Switch

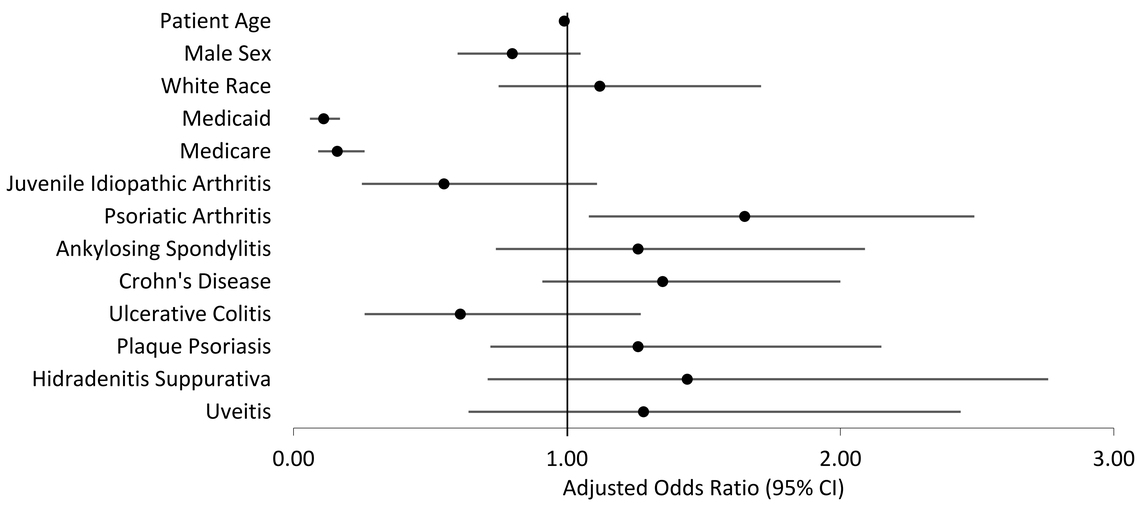
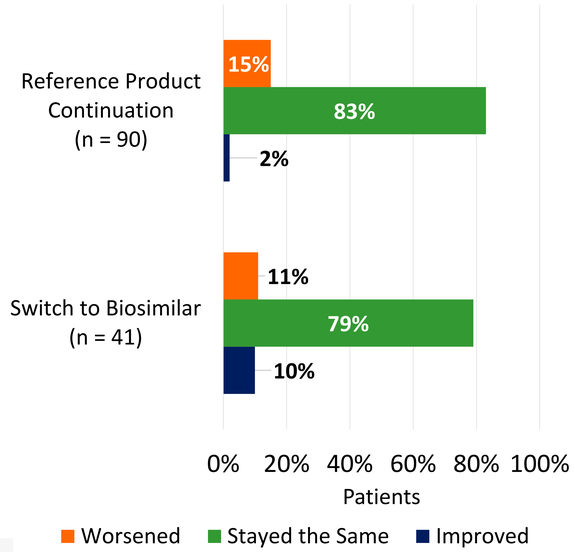


Figure 4. Change in Disease Status



Disease status data were available for 90/2,000 (4.5%) patients in the reference product cohort and 41/285 (14.4%) patients in the biosimilar switch cohort.

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