UK's Largest Clinical Trial for a Potential New Treatment for Psoriasis launched

- The effect of psoriasis on quality of life is similar to diseases such as cancer, heart attack, arthritis, type 2 diabetes and depression\(^1\)
- Over 70\% of psoriasis patients report only low to moderate satisfaction with currently available treatment options\(^2\)
- UK’s largest clinical trial to investigate a potential new treatment for psoriasis\(^3\)

Frimley, 6\(^{th}\) December 2013 – Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited has announced the launch of the UK’s largest psoriasis clinical trial to investigate a potential new treatment for adults with moderate-severe psoriasis.\(^3\)

Dr Richard Warren, Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester and Honorary Consultant Dermatologist at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and Lead Investigator for the clinical trial commented, “Psoriasis is a common (~2\% UK population), life ruining condition with effects on patients’ quality of life similar to diseases such as cancer, heart attack, arthritis and depression. This clinical trial will investigate a new biological therapy for the treatment of psoriasis in what will be the largest trial of its type in the UK to date”.

The trial is designed to provide more information about this potential new treatment for moderate-severe psoriasis and will involve approximately 50 dermatology centres across the UK. Adults in the UK with psoriasis who have received treatment from a dermatologist can find out more about the clinical trial at www.psoriasisclinicaltrials.co.uk.
Bernadette, a 46 year old woman has been living with psoriasis since she was a child, “I was diagnosed with psoriasis at the age of 12. From that day my life changed for the worse. I hid my arms and legs as I was scared of what people would think. My confidence was shattered. My first marriage broke down due to heavy drinking and suicide attempts, I felt worthless. Psoriasis has affected me physically and mentally everyday”.

Psoriasis may profoundly affect all aspects of person's social and personal lives as well as their work.6

- There is no cure for psoriasis and over 70% of psoriasis patients report only low to moderate satisfaction with currently available treatment options2
- More than 5% of people with psoriasis experience depression and suicidal thoughts7
- Up to 32% of people with moderate to severe psoriasis have been found to have problems with alcohol8
- 20% of people with severe psoriasis take antidepressant medication9

Psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory condition which is estimated to affect between 2% and 3% of the UK population – up to 1.8 million people.4 Plaque psoriasis is the most common type of psoriasis, accounting for 80% of cases and is characterised by thick and extensive skin lesions, known to cause itching, scaling and pain.10 More than one third of people with plaque psoriasis suffer from moderate-severe psoriasis,11 which can be difficult to treat.12 People are considered to have moderate-severe psoriasis when more than 10% of their body surface is affected, or when sensitive areas of the body are involved, such as hands or feet, which impacts on a person’s quality of life.13,14

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Disclaimer
This clinical trial is being funded by Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited and all materials relating to it are being provided by Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited. Novartis publishes the results of all clinical trials on its clinical trials website at www.novctrd.com.15

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as “on track,” “encouraging,” “committed,” “working to develop,” “ongoing,” “investigational,” “potential,” “will,” or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding this potential new treatment. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of management regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that this potential new treatment or any other dermatology products will be submitted or approved for sale in any market, or at any particular time. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.
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