BACKGROUND:
- Psoriasis (PsO) is not curable; however, for many people treatment will help to control the disease.
- This study provides information on the current supply with biological agents and its related costs (other medication, outpatient care, hospital admissions) in Germany.

METHODS:
- The design is a retrospective claims data analysis.
- The data source is the database of the Institute for Applied Health Research (InGef) Berlin, formerly HRI Health Risk Institute, which includes approximately 6.7 million insured anonymities who originate from 63 statutory health insurances in Germany. The observation period was from 2012 to 2016 and analyses were performed by the InGef Institute. A sample with approximately 4 million insured persons was drawn and stratified by age and gender according to the official demographic structure of the German statutory health insurance population (Destatis, Dec 31st, 2013).
- The target population consists of patients who met following criteria with regard to the observation period from 2012 to 2016:
  1. Patients who start a biological treatment (“New”)
  2. Patients with continuous treatment with the same biological (“Repeater”)
  3. Patients who switch biological (“Switchover”)

RESULTS:
- Most patients with PsO are aged above 46 years, the proportion below 17 years’ account for less than 1%. The average age of all age cohorts in 46.9 years, with the subgroup of men slightly younger than women (46.8 yr men vs. 49.9 yr women).
- The proportion of men is slightly higher than that of women (54.5% vs. 45.5% female).

CONCLUSIONS:
- Adalimumab, apremilast and etanercept are those biological agents mainly used for treating PsO.
- Costs grew steadily over the last four years with biological agents being the key cost driver.
- Total costs in 2015 were €36.9 million and on average €18,067 per patient.

REFERENCES: