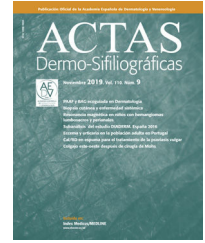




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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### [Translated article] BIOBADATOP Spanish Atopic Dermatitis Registry: Description and Early Findings



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#### KEYWORDS

Treatments;  
Atopic dermatitis;  
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#### Abstract

**Background:** In recent years, remarkable improvements in our understanding of atopic dermatitis (AD) have revolutionized treatment perspectives, but access to reliable data from clinical practice is essential.

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Biologics;  
JAK inhibitors;  
Registries

**Materials and method:** The Spanish Atopic Dermatitis Registry, BIOBADATOP, is a prospective, multicenter database that collects information on patients of all ages with AD requiring systemic therapy with conventional or novel drugs. We analyzed the registry to describe patient characteristics, diagnoses, treatments, and adverse events (AEs).

**Results:** We studied data entries for 258 patients who had received 347 systemic treatments for AD. Treatment was discontinued in 29.4% of cases, mostly due to a lack of effectiveness (in 10.7% of cases). A total of 132 AEs were described during follow-up. Eighty-six AEs (65%) were linked to a systemic treatment, most commonly dupilumab (39 AEs) and cyclosporine (38 AEs). The most common AEs were conjunctivitis (11 patients), headache (6), hypertrichosis (5), and nausea (4). There was 1 severe AE (acute mastoiditis) associated with cyclosporine.

**Conclusions:** Initial findings on AEs from the Spanish BIOBADATOP registry are limited by short follow-up times precluding comparisons or calculation of crude and adjusted incidence rates. At the time of our analysis, no severe AEs had been reported for novel systemic therapies. BIOBADATOP will help answer questions on the effectiveness and safety of conventional and novel systemic therapies in AD.

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## PALABRAS CLAVE

Tratamientos;  
Dermatitis atópica;  
Acontecimientos  
adversos;  
Biológicos;  
Inhibidores de JAK;  
Registro prospectivo

## BIOBADATOP: Registro Español de Dermatitis Atópica. Descripción y primeros resultados

### Resumen

**Antecedentes:** En los últimos años se ha producido una revolución en el conocimiento de la dermatitis atópica (DA) que ha revertido en un salto cualitativo en las expectativas terapéuticas. En este contexto, resulta fundamental disponer de datos de práctica clínica de calidad.

**Material y método:** BIOBADATOP es el Registro Español de Dermatitis Atópica, un estudio observacional, prospectivo y multicéntrico, con una cohorte de pacientes de cualquier edad con DA que requieren el empleo de tratamiento sistémico (convencional o innovador). Se registraron los datos demográficos, de diagnóstico, los tratamientos y los acontecimientos adversos (AA).

**Resultados:** Se incluyeron 258 pacientes, con 347 tratamientos sistémicos iniciados para la DA. Se suspendieron el 29,4% de los tratamientos, principalmente por falta de eficacia (10,7%). Durante el período de seguimiento se registraron 132 AA. Del total, el 65% (86) se relacionaron con el tratamiento sistémico iniciado, siendo los más frecuentes dupilumab (39 AA) y ciclosporina (38 AA). Los AA más frecuentes fueron: conjuntivitis (11 pacientes), cefalea (6), hipertrichosis (5) y náuseas (4). Se registró un AA grave (mastoiditis aguda) relacionado con ciclosporina.

**Conclusiones:** En este primer informe, la descripción de AA está limitada por los cortos períodos de seguimiento, que no permiten el cálculo de tasas de incidencias crudas ni ajustadas, y no se han realizado comparaciones. Hasta la fecha del análisis no se han registrado AA graves en relación con las nuevas terapias. BIOBADATOP permitirá generar conocimiento en términos de efectividad y de seguridad de los tratamientos sistémicos clásicos y de las nuevas terapias en DA.

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## Introduction

Advances in our understanding of the pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis (AD) have led to the development of new therapeutic strategies targeting, for the first time in the history of this disease, key elements in the pathogenic pathway. Current treatments vary in their nature and mechanisms of action. Most of the available safety and efficacy data for new treatments are from clinical trials, whose findings led to the authorization of drugs such as dupilumab, baricitinib, upadacitinib, tralokinumab, and abrocitinib.<sup>1</sup>

While clinical trials are necessary, they are insufficient for determining the true effectiveness and safety

of new treatments. There are several reasons for this. First, clinical trials usually study select groups of patients, excluding those with certain comorbidities and a higher risk of toxicity.<sup>2</sup> Second, they have limited sample sizes and hence only detect the most common adverse events (AEs). Less common events (those with a frequency of less than 1:1000) are generally only detected in real-life clinical practice.

Registries are a useful source of data for pharmacovigilance purposes and evaluating long-term data on a broad set of patients, many of whom have comorbidities and are on other treatments. The Healthy Skin Foundation of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV)

has created several registries, including BIOBADADERM (the Spanish Registry of Systemic Treatments in Psoriasis), which was launched by the AEDV Psoriasis Group in 2007<sup>3</sup> and has become an international reference point for information on psoriasis in real-world clinical settings.<sup>4,5</sup>

The Spanish Atopic Dermatitis Registry, BIOBADATOP, was started in 2020, with the inclusion of the first patients. BIOBADATOP is an initiative of the AEDV established in collaboration with 2 of the academy's working groups: the Spanish Contact Dermatitis and Skin Allergy Research Group (GEIDAC) and the Spanish Pediatric Dermatology Group (GEDP). The registry was designed in tune with the European TREATment of severe Atopic eczema (TREAT) survey, an international enterprise aimed at standardizing the collection of observational data for patients receiving systemic treatment for AD.<sup>6</sup>

The BIOBADATOP registry is designed to collect high-quality, standardized data on the safety, effectiveness, and impact on quality of life of systemic AD treatments used in Spanish hospitals. This information can then be integrated with other national or international registries.

The main aims of the BIOBADATOP project are to:

1. describe the short-term and long-term safety of systemic treatments for AD (including phototherapy) for pharmacovigilance purposes
2. describe the short-term and long-term effectiveness of systemic treatments for AD (including phototherapy) to inform decision-making and guideline development

The secondary aims are to:

1. describe the short- and long-term safety of topical treatments for AD
2. describe the effectiveness of different models of AD care, including patient education
3. describe comorbidities associated with AD

In this article, we describe the methodology used to create the BIOBADATOP registry and report on its initial findings.

## Material and Methods

### Study Design

BIOBADATOP is a multicenter, observational, prospective, cohort study designed to collect information on patients of all ages with AD who are started on a systemic treatment.

### Participating Hospitals

To contribute to the BIOBADATOP registry, hospitals must have at least 1 dermatologist with interest and responsibilities in the treatment of moderate to severe AD. Hospitals can gradually join the project, which aims to maintain a sufficiently representative geographic scope. The hospitals in the project at the time of this analysis are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1** Demographic Description.

<i>Sex, No. %</i>		
Male	139	54.3
Female	117	45.7
<i>Mean follow-up (SD), y</i>	0.7	(2.2)
<i>Mean (SD) age, y</i>	32.6	(16.2)
<i>Hospital, no., %</i>		
Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Doctor Negrín	42	16.3
Hospital Universitario de La Princesa	32	12.4
Hospital del Mar-IMIM	15	5.8
Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol	47	18.2
Hospital Universitario Miguel Servet Zaragoza	20	7.8
Hospital General Universitario de Alicante	7	2.7
Hospital Universitario La Fe	15	5.8
Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra	37	14.3
Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor	36	14.0
Hospital Universitario Virgen de las Nieves	7	2.7

### Patient Enrolment

The BIOBADATOP registry contains data on adult and pediatric patients with AD who are started on systemic immunomodulatory therapy in routine clinical practice. To be included, patients must meet the U.K. Working Party's Diagnostic Criteria for Atopic Dermatitis.<sup>7,8</sup>

### Exposure and Follow-up

Data collected at the enrolment visit include demographic and diagnostic information, baseline disease severity assessed using the Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI), the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), and the Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure (POEM), and information on diagnostic tests, comorbidities, and previous AD treatments.

Follow-up visits are carried out as per usual clinical practice. Data from visits closest to 3 and 6 months after the start of each systemic treatment are recorded. Annual visits are recorded thereafter. A note is made of any changes to disease severity or treatment (main systemic treatment and concomitant treatments).

At each visit, all AEs the patient may have experienced since their last visit are recorded and coded using MedDRA (Medical Dictionary for Drug Regulatory Activities) terms (<https://www.meddra.org>).

Enrolled patients are expected to remain in the registry for an indefinite period of time. The duration envisaged for the BIOBADATOP project is at least 10 years.

**Table 2** Baseline and Follow-up Patient Data.**Baseline visit**

- Demographic data, including ethnic background
- Weight and height
- Family and personal history of atopic comorbidities
- Personal diagnosis of atopic dermatitis and treatment history
- Comorbidities from the Charlson Comorbidity Index
- Forms of atopic dermatitis: nummular eczema, palmoplantar eczema, prurigo nodularis
- Description of affected areas: face and eyelids, genitals, hands, erythroderma
- Total immunoglobulin E levels
- Disease severity on enrolment: EASI, pruritus VAS, DLQI, POEM
- Patient training or education programs (atopy schools)
- Previous screening tests (serology for HBV, HCV, HIV, and VZV)
- Previous treatments (including topical and systemic treatments and phototherapy)

**Follow-up visits**

- Changes in atopic dermatitis type, location, and/or severity
- Evaluation of main systemic treatment and/or concomitant treatments, phototherapy, and topical treatments
- If the main treatment has been changed: reasons for change and patient results on initiation of new treatment
- Reasons for treatment discontinuation if applicable
- Evaluation of adverse events since last visit
- Additional visits to a hospital or health care center related to atopic dermatitis or treatment
- Loss of productivity (days of activity impairment due to atopic dermatitis)
- Atopic dermatitis severity at time of visit: EASI, pruritus VAS, DLQI, POEM

Abbreviations: DLQI, Dermatology Life Quality Index; EASI, Eczema Area and Severity Index; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HBV, hepatitis B virus; POEM, Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure; VAS, visual assessment scale; VZV, varicella zoster virus.

## Outcome Measures

**Table 2** summarizes the data collected to describe the study population and explore factors that might influence the occurrence of AEs.

## Statistical Analysis

We performed a descriptive analysis of patients enrolled in the registry since its launch in March 2020 up to November 2022. Statistical analyses were performed in Stata (version 17.0 Statacorp). Demographic and clinical data are described using conventional statistics (mean [SD] and absolute and relative frequencies).

## Sample Size Estimation

Based on the experience with the BIOBADADERM registry, BIOBADATOP is expected to collect data on approximately 5700 persons-year (approximately 2500 patients in 10 years). It is estimated that this sample will be sufficient to detect, with a statistical power of 80% and a bilateral significance level of 0.05, relative risks of between 1.5 and 2 for an AE incidence of 4 to 10 cases per 1000 person-years in the comparison group. The group will collaborate with other members of TREAT network to detect rare and late AEs.

## Data Management and Quality Control

Data are entered, following a standardized method, into an online software system (REDCap [Research Electronic Data Capture])<sup>9</sup> hosted by the Healthy Skin Foundation. Each patient is assigned a unique identifier.

## Ethical Considerations

The study was approved by the research ethics committee of Aragón (PA18/051), the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS), and all participating hospitals. It was conducted in compliance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki and current legislation. The BIOBADATOP project has also received the European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance (ENCePP) quality seal attesting to scientific independence and transparency. The ENCePP is coordinated by the European Medicines Agency.

## Results

The first 2 patients were enrolled in BIOBADATOP in March 2020. This report describes entries recorded up to November 2022. At the time of analysis, 13 hospitals were contributing to the registry.

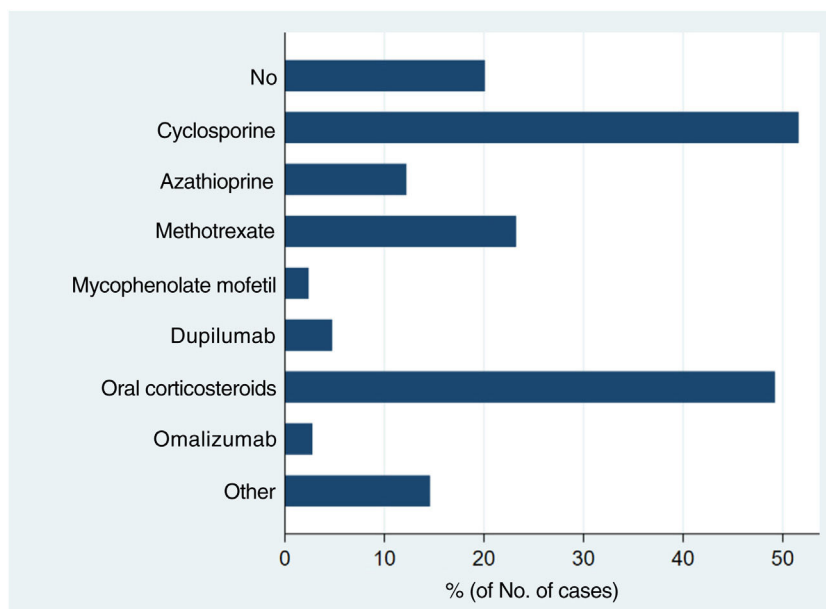
## Main Baseline Characteristics

As of November 2022, BIOBADATOP contained data on 258 patients (139 [54.3%] males). Mean (SD) age on enrolment was 32.6 (16.2) years. Mean follow-up was 9 months.

The main comorbidities are shown in **Table 3**. The most common conditions were asthma (50.4%) and allergic rhinoconjunctivitis (56.5%). Just 17% of patients had an atopic eye disease. Other notable comorbidities were anxiety (21.8%), chronic respiratory disease (17.7%), and depression (10.5%).

The most common clinical presentations were dermatitis involving extensor surfaces (93.3%), the face and eyelids (84.6%), and the hands (67.1%). There was also genital involvement (31.6%), erythroderma (covering > 70% of the body surface area) (17.2%), palmoplantar eczema (12.1%), nummular eczema (12.6%), and prurigo nodularis ( $\geq 5$  palpable nodules) (11.6%).

Systemic treatments received prior to inclusion in the BIOBADATOP registry are shown in **Fig. 1**. Twenty percent of patients had not been previously treated with a systemic



**Figure 1** Systemic treatments initiated prior to enrolment in the BIOBADOTOP registry.

agent. The most widely used previous systemic treatments were cyclosporine (> 50% of patients) and oral corticosteroids (49%), followed at quite a distance by methotrexate, at just over 20%.

Phototherapy, mostly with narrowband UVB light, had been used in 44.3% of cases. The vast majority of patients (97.4%) had been treated with topical corticosteroids; 44.3% had received topical calcineurin inhibitors.

### Baseline and Follow-up Findings

Mean (SD) AD severity according to the EASI was 23.4 (11.9; range, 0–63) at baseline. The mean (SD) quality of life scores on enrolment were 19.7 (6.3) for POEM, 14.6 (7.6) for DLQI in patients > 15 years, and 9.7 (5.6) in patients aged 15 years. The baseline scores for the main outcomes of interest are summarized in Table 4.

A total of 347 systemic therapies were started between March 2020 and November 2022 (Table 5). Practically all the treatments (90%) were primary treatments. The discontinuation rate for newly initiated treatments was 29.4%, and the main reason was a lack of effectiveness (10.7%).

Of the 258 patients enrolled in the database, 232 (89.9%) were still under active treatment with a systemic drug at the time of analysis, 15 (5.8%) had been taken off systemic treatment, and 11 (4.3%) had been lost to follow-up.

### Description of AEs

In total, 132 AEs were registered during follow-up; 7 of these (5.3%) were considered serious. Of the 132 documented AEs, 65% (86) were linked to the new systemic treatment. The most common drugs implicated were dupilumab (39 AEs) and cyclosporine (38). The most common AEs were conjunctivitis (11 cases), headache (6), hypertrichosis (5), and nausea (4). We were unable to calculate incidence

rates according to MedDRA terms because of the low frequency of cases at the time of analysis. The AEs recorded are shown by drug in Table 6. There was just 1 serious event—acute mastoiditis requiring hospital admission—in a patient treated with cyclosporine. The patient recovered completely and the drug was permanently discontinued.

### Discussion

The AEDV BIOBADATOP registry was created to collect clinical-epidemiological, pharmacovigilance, and effectiveness data on patients with moderate to severe AD under treatment with conventional or novel systemic therapies at a turning point in the history of the treatment of this disease. In this first report, we describe the current situation captured by the registry and the main characteristics of the patients enrolled.

Most patients prescribed a systemic treatment for AD in our setting have severe disease, in terms of not just clinical manifestations but also itching severity and impact on quality of life. While these are key aspects that influence decisions by both physicians and patients, they are not part of the reimbursement criteria for new drugs. Despite the clinical heterogeneity of AD, almost all the patients in the BIOBADATOP registry had dermatitis affecting the extensor surfaces. In addition, many patients had lesions in locations that have a greater impact on everyday life and can be challenging to treat, such as the face, eyelids, genitals, and hands. A large percentage of patients had atopic comorbidities such as asthma. Other comorbidities, notably mood disorders, were also common.

Dupilumab was approved by the European Medicines Agency in September 2017. Authorization was subsequently granted for baricitinib, followed by tralokinumab and upadacitinib. Dupilumab is the most widely used systemic AD treatment used by the hospitals participating in the BIOBADATOP project. This is, at least in part, because it was

**Table 3** Atopic and Nonatopic Comorbidities in Enrolled Patients.

	No.	%
<b>Atopic comorbidities</b>		
<i>Personal history of cancer</i>		
Asthma	124	50.4
Allergic rhinoconjunctivitis	135	56.5
Atopic eye disease	40	17.0
<i>Personal history of atopy</i>		
First-degree relative with atopic dermatitis	76	37.8
First-degree relative with asthma	52	26.9
First-degree relative with allergic rhinoconjunctivitis	44	23.7
First-degree relative with atopic eye disease	11	5.9
<b>Nonatopic comorbidities</b>		
Anxiety	50	21.8
Depression	24	10.5
Myocardial infarction	1	0.4
Heart failure	0	0
Peripheral artery disease	4	1.7
Cerebrovascular disease	0	0
Dementia	0	0
Chronic respiratory disease	42	17.7
Connective tissue disease	0	0
Gastroduodenal ulcer	0	0
Mild chronic liver disease	0	0
Moderate/severe chronic liver disease	3	1.3
Diabetes	7	3
Diabetes with target-organ damage	0	0
Hemiparesis	0	0
Moderate/severe chronic kidney failure	1	0.4
Solid tumor or neoplasm	2	0.8
Solid tumor or neoplasm with metastasis	2	0.8
Leukemia	0	0
Lymphoma	3	1.3
Defined AIDS	0	0

approved earlier, meaning that clinicians are more familiar with its use, and there is a greater understanding of longer-term effects in real-world settings. Choice of drug, however, can also be influenced by other factors, such as

**Table 4** Baseline Scores for Main Outcome Measures.

	Observations, no.	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Pruritus VAS (0–10)	219	7.5	2.1	0	10
EASI (0–72)	245	23.4	11.9	0	63
POEM (0–28)	173	19.7	6.3	1	28
DLQI score (0–30)	164	14.6	7.6	1	30
Children's DLQI (0–30)	20	9.7	5.6	2	23

Abbreviations: DLQI, Dermatology Life Quality Index; EASI, Eczema Area and Severity Index; POEM, Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure; VAS, visual assessment scale.

**Table 5** New Systemic Treatments Initiated (Baseline or BIOBADATOP Visit).

	No.	%
<i>Systemic treatment</i>		
Cyclosporine	120	34.6
Azathioprine	1	0.3
Methotrexate	10	2.9
Mycophenolate mofetil	1	0.3
Dupilumab	161	46.4
Corticosteroids	23	6.6
Omalizumab	1	0.3
Baricitinib	1	0.3
Upadacitinib	23	6.6
Tralokimumab	6	1.7
<i>Type of Treatment</i>		
Main treatment	305	90.0
Adjuvant treatment	34	10.0
<i>Main treatment (current status)</i>		
Active	245	70.6
Discontinued	102	29.4
<i>Reason for discontinuation</i>		
Lack of effectiveness	37	10.7
Adverse event	21	6.1
Physician's decision	14	4.0
Patient's preference	8	2.3
Disease remission	12	3.5
Other	10	2.9

access to authorization or first-line treatment policies in different health care regions.

Although the BIOBADATOP registry covers both pediatric and adult patients, the patients included were on average aged between 30 and 40. This is probably because most of the researchers that contribute to the registry are heads of units that mainly treat adults with moderate to severe AD. Pediatric units are less well represented. In addition, new systemic therapies for AD were approved later, and at different time points, for children.

This first report on the BIOBADATOP registry is limited by the short follow-up times, which precluded comparisons and an accurate measure of incidence rates. We were only able to describe frequencies, which do not reflect time of exposure to given drugs. Most of the AEs reported were associated with the most widely used drugs: dupilumab and cyclosporine. Despite this limitation, no serious AEs had

**Table 6** Relevant Adverse Events Associated With Initiation of New Systemic Treatment.

Adverse event	Treatment				Total
	Cyclosporine	Methotrexate	Dupilumab	Other	
Acne	0	0	0	1	1
Alopecia areata	0	0	1	0	1
Iron deficiency anemia	0	0	0	0	1
Burning sensation on skin	1	0	0	0	1
Asthenia	2	0	0	0	2
Blepharitis	0	0	3	0	3
Dermatitis flare-up	0	0	0	1	1
Creatine kinase elevation	0	0	0	1	1
Headache	5	0	1	0	6
Conjunctivitis	0	0	11	0	11
Allergic conjunctivitis	0	0	0	1	1
High creatinine	1	0	0	0	1
Abdominal pain	3	0	0	0	3
Injection site pain	0	0	1	0	1
Atopic eczema	0	0	1	0	1
Excessive tearing	0	0	1	0	1
Erythema	0	0	2	0	2
Facial erythema	0	0	1	0	1
Erythromelalgia	2	0	0	0	2
Folliculitis	0	0	0	0	1
Diminished renal function	1	0	0	0	1
Gastroenteritis	1	0	0	0	1
Blood pressure-high	1	0	0	0	1
Oral herpes	1	0	0	0	1
Conjunctival hyperemia	0	0	1	0	1
Gingival hyperplasia	2	0	0	0	2
Hypertension	2	0	0	0	2
Arterial hypertension	1	0	0	0	1
Hypertransaminasemia	0	1	0	0	1
Hypertrichosis	5	0	0	0	5
Gingival hypertrophy	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Blastocystis hominis</i> infection	0	0	1	0	1
Red eye	0	0	1	0	1
Tearing	0	0	1	0	1
Increased tearing	0	0	1	0	1
Dizziness	1	0	0	0	1
Mastoiditis	1	0	0	0	1
Nauseous	1	0	0	0	1
Nausea	2	1	0	1	4
Acute otitis media	0	0	1	0	1
Paresthesia in fingers	1	0	0	0	1
Plaque psoriasis	0	0	1	0	1
Hepatitis B reactivation	0	0	1	0	1
Gum bleeding	1	0	0	0	1
Dry eye sensation	0	0	2	0	2
Hot flushes	1	0	0	0	1
Tension	1	0	0	0	1
Urticaria	0	0	2	0	2
Uveitis	0	0	1	0	1
Xerophthalmia	0	0	3	0	3
Xerostomia	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>					<b>86</b>

been reported for any of the novel systemic treatments at the time of this analysis. There was 1 serious infection (mastoiditis), linked to cyclosporine. Other nonserious but relatively common AEs were headache, hypertrichosis, and gum bleeding.

Of all the novel systemic treatments used by Spanish hospitals in the BIOBADATOP registry, dupilumab was the medication with the most available data. The most common AEs were conjunctivitis and other AEs affecting the surface of the eye, such as blepharitis and xerophthalmia. There was just 1 case of facial erythema. These findings are consistent with recent real-world data on drug safety.<sup>10,11</sup> Our findings did not reveal any new safety alerts.

The incidence of certain key AEs, such as cancer and other potentially serious AEs, is too low to be accurately captured in national registries, but this limitation can be overcome by combining data from different countries. BIOBADATOP is directly linked to the TREAT project and uses a standardized European protocol, similar to that followed by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, and other European countries. Combining data from different registries should provide the necessary statistical power to calculate incidence rates for less common AEs. Germany (TREATgermany)<sup>12</sup> and Denmark (SCRATCH)<sup>13</sup> have both reported findings from their national registries, and the TREAT Registry Taskforce published a recent status update on the 8 databases in the network, including BIOBADATOP. The update covered 4702 patients enrolled up to May 2022.<sup>14</sup>

The treatment of AD is undergoing a major transformation.<sup>15</sup> Until very recently, patients with disease refractory to topical treatment and/or phototherapy were largely treated with cyclosporine or off-label immunosuppressants, such as methotrexate and azathioprine. This is reflected in the data on previous treatments showing the use of at 1 conventional immunosuppressive treatment and a high use of corticosteroids. Although clinical trial data suggest that novel systemic therapies for AD have an adequate safety profile, their effects in the broader population must be studied.

The BIOBADATOP registry will generate useful data for pharmacovigilance purposes and for evaluating treatment effectiveness in real-world clinical settings, contributing to a greater understanding of moderate to severe AD and better management of this disease.

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## Conflicts of Interest

M. Munera-Campos has received fees for consultancy services, presentations, and other related activities from

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