

PRURIGO NODULARIS (PN)



WHAT IS PRURIGO NODULARIS?

PN is a chronic skin condition which causes hard, itchy lumps (nodules) on the skin. The itch is considered one of the most extreme. PN has a significant socioeconomic burden and can cause considerable mental health problems.

The cause and mechanism of PN is unknown. It can be stand-alone, or be linked to other skin conditions like eczema.

Limited research makes it hard to calculate the prevalence of PN and many cases likely go undiagnosed.

REPURPOSING DUPILUMAB

Dupilumab is a monoclonal antibody used to treat atopic dermatitis (AD) and asthma. Researchers identified some similarities in the biological pathways of PN and AD, leading to a clinical trial that showed dupilumab was effective in relieving itching for people with PN. This is crucial for managing the debilitating itch.

The drug received marketing authorisation (MA) for PN in the UK in 2022. In 2024, Dupilumab was approved by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC), making it available to patients through NHS Scotland.

However, in England, a health technology assessment (HTA) determined dupilumab was too expensive for the NHS England to reimburse, despite the unmet clinical need. This means patients need to pay privately for access. As of 2024, dupilumab costs around £1,265 per month and is the only approved PN-specific treatment.

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

DESIGNING THE TRIAL

The HTA report pointed to issues with the design of the clinical trial, arguing it did not provide a comparison between the new treatment and the NHS's standard of care. It is crucial to work with regulators and patient organisations, and to seek scientific advice before starting a clinical trial.

WORKING WITH PATIENT GROUPS

Sailaja Maganti leads the Prurigo Nodularis International Support Group. She was key in securing reimbursement for Dupilumab from the SMC. The HTA process included a Patient and Clinician Engagement meeting, giving patient representatives and clinicians a stronger voice in decision making.

RARE DISEASES

Because of their small population size, it can be challenging to agree pricing for treatments for rare diseases like PN. Reimbursement bodies need to take a pragmatic and flexible approach to assessment in order to best serve rare communities.



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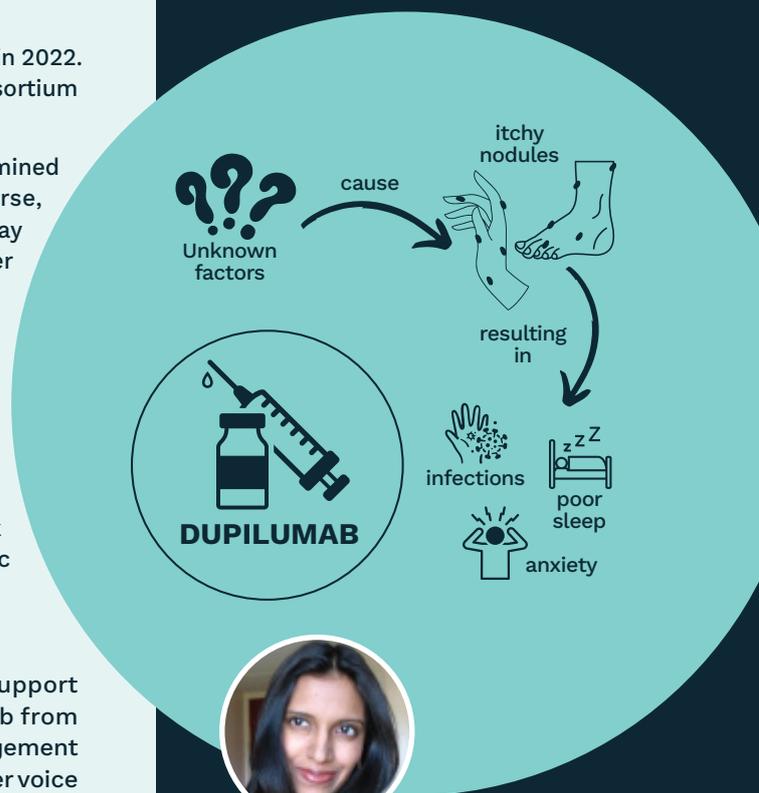


SCAN TO LEARN MORE

AT A GLANCE

- Prurigo Nodularis causes hard, itchy skin nodules.
- Dupilumab, a medication for atopic dermatitis, is the only treatment with marketing authorisation for PN in the UK.
- It is reimbursed in Scotland but not England, making it inaccessible to patients in England.
- Working closely with regulators and MA holders is key to successful drug repurposing.

HOW IT WORKS



SPECIAL THANKS TO SAILAJA MAGANTI

Sailaja founded the Prurigo Nodularis International Charity, campaigning for patient centric research, increased awareness of PN and improved diagnosis and treatment of PN. She acts as a patient expert for PN HTA's in England and Scotland.