

Transcript Details

This is a transcript of an educational program. Details about the program and additional media formats for the program are accessible by visiting: <https://reachmd.com/programs/psoriasis-whats-beneath-surface/psoriasis-care-coordination-obstacles-and-answers-for-dermatologists/10507/>

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Psoriasis Care Coordination: Obstacles & Answers for Dermatologists

Announcer:

This is ReachMD, and you're listening to *Psoriasis: What's Beneath the Surface*, sponsored by Lilly.

Dr. Birnholz:

From the ReachMD studios, I'm Dr. Matt Birnholz. On this episode, we will hear from Dr. Jonathan Weiss, dermatologist and adjunct assistant clinical professor of Dermatology at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Weiss speaks to the care coordination challenges for patients with psoriasis, and ways we can address them in practice.

Dr. Weiss:

So, one of the biggest psoriasis care challenges that we face as clinicians is availability of the best treatments from a reimbursement standpoint, and I think that we as clinicians can do several things to make sure that we have them available. One of them is advocating for our patients through groups like the National Psoriasis Foundation. Other actions that we can take to help our patients include making insurance plans realize the importance of covering all of the medications that we want to prescribe. Beyond that, I think we also face challenges from our patients of being skeptical of some of the treatments, and I think it's incumbent upon us as clinicians to know all of the advantages as well as the side effects of the medications we want to prescribe and to help our patients advocate for themselves by being knowledgeable and being honest with them about the benefits as well as the potential side effects they might encounter.

Care collaboration is a very important aspect of treating the severe or even the moderate psoriasis patient. I think it's important to coordinate with the primary care physician to get on the same page. Sometimes it's important to get on the phone. A fax referral is not enough. You need to make sure that both you and the primary care physician feel the same way. And you might need to educate a primary care provider. It's also important to coordinate with other specialists—for example, a rheumatologist. A rheumatologist might want to prescribe one biologic, and that biologic may cause a flare of the psoriasis—unexpected but it does occur—and so you need to understand from the rheumatologists what their goals are and what other biologics they might feel comfortable using, as well as let them know what biologics you think should be avoided and that you might want to use.

Dr. Birnholz:

That was Dr. Weiss from Emory University School of Medicine. From the studios at ReachMD, I'm Dr. Matt Birnholz, and thanks for listening.

Announcer:

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