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1   **Evaluating the Diagnostic Accuracy of a Screening Questionnaire for Detecting**  
2   **Hidradenitis Suppurativa: A Pooled Analysis of Accuracy Measures from the Global**  
3   **Hidradenitis Suppurativa Atlas (GHiSA) Study**

4   **Running head:** Diagnostic accuracy of GHiSA screening questionnaire

5  
6   Dorra Bouazzi,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Søren Lophaven,<sup>4</sup> Paa Gyasi Hagan,<sup>5,6</sup> Sofia Botvid,<sup>7,8</sup> Lone Storgaard Hove,<sup>8</sup>  
7   Errol P Prens,<sup>9</sup> Klaudia Knecht-Gurwin,<sup>10</sup> Jacek C Szepietowski,<sup>10</sup> Ehiaghe L Anaba,<sup>11</sup> Ahmed  
8   Samaouel Chehad,<sup>12</sup> Samira Zobiri,<sup>13</sup> Amina Serradj,<sup>14</sup> Mohammed Saiful Islam Bhuiyan,<sup>15</sup>  
9   Towhida Noor,<sup>16</sup> Philippe Guillem,<sup>17,18,19,20</sup> Mohammad Mahdi Parvizi,<sup>21</sup> Nasrin Saki,<sup>22</sup> Erkan  
10   Alpsoy,<sup>23</sup> Caner Vardar,<sup>24</sup> Theodora Kanni,<sup>25</sup> Evangelos J Giamparellos-Bourboulis,<sup>25</sup> John W  
11   Frew,<sup>26,27,28</sup> Waleed Hamed Ali A Mahari,<sup>29</sup> Johanna C van Huijstee,<sup>30</sup> Pim Aarts,<sup>30</sup> Shinta  
12   Trilaksmi Dewi,<sup>31</sup> Sri Awalia Febriana,<sup>31</sup> Niken Indrastuti,<sup>31</sup> Nyoman Suryawati,<sup>32</sup> Miranti  
13   Pangastuti,<sup>33</sup> Aryani Adji,<sup>34</sup> Gardenia Akhyar,<sup>35</sup> Nopriyati,<sup>36</sup> Cut Putri Hazlianda,<sup>37</sup> Francisco  
14   Reyes-Baraona,<sup>38</sup> Carlos Matas,<sup>38</sup> Haroon Saeed,<sup>39</sup> Ameshin Moodley,<sup>39</sup> Yousef Binamer,<sup>40</sup>  
15   Moonyza Akmal Ahmad Kamil,<sup>41</sup> Ivana Jocic,<sup>42</sup> Zeljko Mijuskovic,<sup>42</sup> Kanchana  
16   Mallawaarachchi,<sup>43</sup> Chathurika Gangani,<sup>44</sup> Ivana Tusheva,<sup>45</sup> Vesna Brishkoska Boshkovski,<sup>45</sup> Hu  
17   Danchen,<sup>46</sup> Geng Songmei,<sup>46</sup> Cecilia E Medianfar,<sup>1,2</sup> Ditte M L Saunte,<sup>1,2</sup> Nisha S Chandran,<sup>47</sup>  
18   Hessel H Van Der Zee,<sup>18,48</sup> Christos C Zouboulis,<sup>18,49</sup> Farida Benhadou,<sup>18,50</sup> Bente Villumsen,<sup>51</sup>  
19   Afsaneh Alavi,<sup>18,52</sup> Perpetua U Ibekwe,<sup>53</sup> Iltefat H Hamzavi,<sup>18,54</sup> John R Ingram,<sup>18,55</sup> Haley B  
20   Naik,<sup>18,56</sup> Amit Garg,<sup>18,57</sup> Jurr Boer,<sup>58</sup> Robin Christensen<sup>3,59</sup> and Gregor B E Jemec<sup>1,2,18</sup>

21  
22   1 Department of Dermatology, Zealand University Hospital, Roskilde, Denmark.

23   2 Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of  
24   Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

25   3 Section for Biostatistics and Evidence-Based Research, the Parker Institute, Bispebjerg and  
26   Frederiksberg Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark.

1 4 Omicron APS, Copenhagen, Denmark

2 5 Department of Dermatology, Holy Family Hospital, Berekum, Ghana

3 6 Dermatology Unit, The Trust Hospital, Accra, Ghana

4 7 Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Science, University of Copenhagen,  
5 Copenhagen, Denmark

6 8 Queen Ingrid's Health Care Center at Queen Ingrid's Hospital, Nuuk, Greenland

7 9 Erasmus University Medical Center, Department of Dermatology, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

8 10 Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology, Wrocław Medical University,  
9 Wrocław, Poland

10 11 Lagos State University College of Medicine 1-5 Oba Akinjobi Way, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

11 12 Department of dermatology, University-hospital of Constantine, Faculty of Medicine,  
12 Constantine-3 University, Algeria

13 13 Department of dermatology, Mustapha University Hospital Center, Faculty of Medicine,  
14 Alger-1 University, Algeria

15 14 Department of dermatology, University Hospital of Oran, Faculty of Medicine, Oran-1  
16 University, Algeria

17 15 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Bangabandhu Sheikh MujibMedical University  
18 (BSMMU), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

19 16 Metador Diagnostic and Wellness Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh

20 17 Department of Surgery, Clinique du Val d'Ouest, Lyon, France

21 18 European Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation, Dessau, Germany

22 19 Réso Verneuil, Paris, France

23 20 Groupe de Recherche en Proctologie de la Société Nationale Française de Coloproctologie,  
24 Paris, France

25 21 Molecular Dermatology Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran.

1 22 Department of Dermatology, Molecular Dermatology Research Center, Shiraz University of  
2 Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

3 23 Department of Dermatology and Venereology Akdeniz University School of Medicine,  
4 Antalya, Türkiye

5 24 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Akdeniz University School of Medicine,  
6 Antalya, Türkiye

7 25 4th Department of Internal Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens,  
8 Medical School, Athens, Greece

9 26 Laboratory of Translational Cutaneous Medicine, Ingham Institute for Applied Medical  
10 Science

11 27 Department of Dermatology, Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, Australia

12 28 School of Clinical Medicine, UNSW Medicine and Health, Sydney, Australia

13 29 Department of Dermatology, Sumail Hospital, Sumail, ALdakhiliya region , Oman

14 30 Erasmus University Medical Center, Department of Dermatology, Rotterdam, The  
15 Netherlands

16 31 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and  
17 Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada/Dr. Sardjito Central General Hospital, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

18 32 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine Udayana University/Prof.  
19 Dr. I.G.N.G Ngoerah Central General Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

20 33 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas  
21 Padjadjaran/Dr. Hasan Sadikin Central General Hospital, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia

22 34 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine, Sam Ratulangi  
23 University/Prof. Dr. R.D. Kandou Central General Hospital, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

24 35 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine, Andalas University/Dr. M  
25 Djamil Central General Hospital, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia

1 36 Department of Dermatology, Venereology. And Aesthetics, Faculty of Medicine, Sriwijaya  
2 University/Dr. Mohammad Hoesin Central General Hospital, Palembang, South Sumatra,  
3 Indonesia

4 37 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine Universitas Sumatra Utara  
5 /Universitas Sumatera Utara Hospital, Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia

6 38 Department of Dermatology, Facultad de Medicina, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile,  
7 Santiago, Chile

8 39 Department of Dermatology, Nelson Mandela Medical School, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

9 40 Department of Dermatology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center, and Alfaisal  
10 university, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

11 41 Department of Dermatology, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

12 42 Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Faculty of Medicine, Military Medical  
13 Academy, Belgrade, Serbia

14 43 Department of Dermatology, Base Hospital – Balangoda, Sri Lanka

15 44 Department of Pediatrics, Base Hospital – Balangoda, Sri Lanka

16 45 Department of Dermatology, City General Hospital "8th September" Skopje, North  
17 Macedonia

18 46 Department of Dermatology, The Second Affiliated Hospital, Xi'an Jiaotong University,  
19 Xi'an, China

20 47 Division of Dermatology, Department of Medicine, National University Hospital, Singapore.

21 48 Erasmus University Medical Center, Department of Dermatology, Rotterdam, The  
22 Netherlands

23 49 Departments of Dermatology, Venereology, Allergology and Immunology, Staedtisches  
24 Klinikum Dessau, Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane and Faculty of Health  
25 Sciences Brandenburg, Dessau, Germany

26 50 Hôpital Erasme HUB, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

27 51 Danish Hidradenitis Suppurativa Patients' Association, Denmark

1 52 Department of Dermatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

2 53 Dermatology unit, Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, University of Abuja,  
3 Abuja, Nigeria

4 54 Director of Hidradenitis suppurativa clinic, Multicultural Dermatology Center, Department of  
5 Dermatology, Henry Ford Hospital. Detroit, Michigan, USA.

6 55 Division of Infection and Immunity, Cardiff University, Cardiff, United Kingdom.

7 56 Department of Dermatology, University of California, San Francisco, USA

8 57 Department of Dermatology, Northwell Health, New Hyde Park, NY, USA

9 58 Deventer Hospital, Department of Dermatology, Deventer, The Netherlands

10 59 Research Unit of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern  
11 Denmark, Odense University Hospital, Denmark.

12 The Department of Dermatology, Zealand University Hospital, Roskilde, Denmark; the  
13 Department of Dermatology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands;  
14 the Departments of Dermatology, Venereology, Allergology and Immunology, Staedtisches  
15 Klinikum Dessau, Dessau, Germany; and the Department of Dermatology, Université Libre de  
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18

19 **Corresponding Author:** Dr Dorra Bouazzi

20 **Email:** dob@regionsjaelland.dk

21

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5 Hagan, S. Botvid, L.S. Hove, E.P. Prens, K. Knecht-Gurwin, J.C. Szepietowski, E.L. Anaba, A.S.  
6 Chehad, S. Zobiri, A. Serradj, M.S.I. Bhuiyan, T. Noor, P. Guillem, M.M. Parvizi, N. Saki, E.  
7 Alpsoy, C. Vardar, T. Kanni, W.H.A.A. Maharbi, J.C. van Huijstee, P. Aarts, S.T. Dewi, S.A.  
8 Febriana, N. Indrastuti, N. Suryawati, M. Pangastuti, A. Adjii, G. Akhyar, Nopriyati, C.P.  
9 Hazlianda, F. Reyes -Baraona, C. Matas, H. Saeed, A. Moodley, Y. Binamer, M.A.A. Kamil, Z.  
10 Mijuskovic, I Jocic, K. Mallawaarachchi, C. Gangani, I. Tusheva, V.B. Boshkovski, H. Danchen,  
11 G. Songmei, R. Christensen, F. Benhadou, C.E. Medianfar, H.H. van der Zee, B. Villumsen, P.U.  
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1 Therapeutics and has served on advisory boards for Insmed, Kymera Therapeutics, and Viela  
2 Bio. He is co-copyright holder of HiSQOL, Investigator Global Assessment and Patient Global  
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16 ALLOCATE Skin group of the ERN Skin and chair of the ARHS Task Force group of the EADV.  
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21 for BI and Processa.

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28 consultant and shareholder of MyDermPortal.

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19 **Data availability:** Data are available in a repository and can be accessed via a DOI link

20 **Ethics statement:** Not applicable.

21 **Patient consent:** Not applicable.

### 23 **What is already known about this topic?**

24 • Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) is a devastating inflammatory skin disease with a  
25 prolonged diagnostic delay of approximately 7–10 years, often due to low awareness  
26 among non-dermatologic healthcare professionals leading to misdiagnosis.

1     • Screening questionnaires have been proposed to aid diagnosis, and one such tool has been  
2     validated and used in the Global Hidradenitis Suppurativa Atlas (GHiSA) Global  
3     Prevalence Study (GPS).

4

## 5     **What does this topic add?**

6     • The pooled analysis indicated that the accuracy was excellent for the GHiSA screening,  
7     with a pooled sensitivity of 0.88 and a pooled specificity of 0.86.  
8     • The screening questionnaire may prove useful in triaging, ensuring that only individuals  
9     fitting the criteria see specialized dermatological care.

10

## 11     **ABSTRACT**

12

13     **Background:** Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) is a devastating inflammatory skin disease with a  
14     prolonged diagnostic delay of approximately 7-10 years. The diagnostic delay can be attributed  
15     to varying factors, including low awareness of diagnostic criteria among non-dermatologic  
16     healthcare professionals often leading to misdiagnosis. Screening questionnaires have been  
17     proposed for the diagnosis of HS, and one of such has been validated and used in the Global  
18     Hidradenitis Suppurativa Atlas (GHiSA) Global Prevalence Study (GPS).

19     **Objective:** To evaluate and provide a summary of the diagnostic accuracy measures (pooled  
20     sensitivity and specificity) of the screening questionnaire employed in the GHiSA GPS.

21     **Methods and Materials:** All studies that adhered to the GHiSA methodology and provided  
22     diagnostic accuracy data were eligible for inclusion. The data was extracted from the eligible  
23     studies and typed into an excel sheet twice by two authors. Data on geographical location and  
24     diagnostic accuracy parameters (true positive, false positive, true negative and false negative)  
25     were extracted from the included studies. The quality of the included studies were assessed using

1 the quality assessment of diagnostic accuracy studies tool (QUADAS-2).  
2 **Results:** Data from 25 studies (23 countries) were included in the pooled analysis. The  
3 QUADAS-2 assessment revealed high risk of bias in the domains “reference standard” and  
4 “patient flow”. For applicability, there were concerns for “patient selection”. Substantial  
5 variations in sensitivity (0.43– 1.00) and specificity (0.15 -1.00) values were observed globally.  
6 The bivariate random effects model showed a pooled sensitivity of 0.88 (95%CI; 0.80 to 0.94)  
7 and a pooled specificity of 0.86 (95%CI; 0.78 to 0.91). The summary operating receiver curve  
8 (sROC) revealed a clustering of studies in the upper left corner, indicating a sensitivity and  
9 specificity close to one. The area under the curve (AUC) was 0.93, suggesting excellent  
10 accuracy.

11 **Conclusion:** Despite substantial variations in the diagnostic estimates across the globe, the  
12 pooled analysis indicated that the accuracy was excellent for the GHiSA screening questionnaire.  
13 The screening questionnaire may prove useful in triaging, ensuring that only individuals fitting  
14 the criteria see specialized dermatological care.

15

## 16 INTRODUCTION

17 Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) is a devastating inflammatory skin disease. (1) Patients commonly  
18 present with nodules, abscesses and tunnels that can progress into significant scarring. HS  
19 patients frequently describe associated severe pain, malodorous discharge, and pruritus. (2)  
20 Patients also suffer from a decreased quality of life, impactful comorbidities, and a higher all-  
21 cause mortality. (3-5) Given these factors, early diagnosis and effective treatment become  
22 imperative. (6) The diagnosis of HS represents a crucial initial step in managing the condition.  
23 However, the global diagnostic delay has been reported to be 7-10 years for HS patients. (7, 8)

1 The global diagnostic delay can be attributed to varying factors, including low awareness of  
2 diagnostic criteria among non-dermatologic healthcare professionals (9), misdiagnosis, flawed  
3 perception of HS, non-white race, and stigmatization of affected individuals. (6, 8-10)

4 The current reference standard for diagnosing HS is a clinical evaluation of the  
5 lesions and a characteristic history, involving the following: typical lesions occurring in one or  
6 more of the predilection sites, and the patients reporting of reoccurrence of symptoms. (11-13)  
7 The above-mentioned clinical criteria frequently require the involvement of a dermatologist,  
8 given the high risk of misdiagnosis. This poses a significant challenge in major parts of the  
9 world, where access to dermatological care is severely restricted. (14-16) Additionally, the  
10 clinical assessment can be time-consuming, and evaluating intimate areas may be difficult for  
11 patients. (6) Other simpler methods to diagnose or screen for HS have been proposed, including  
12 the usage of clinical diagnostic tools such as screening questionnaires. One of such has been  
13 developed by Vinding and Esmann et al (17, 18), and validated globally as a part of the Global  
14 Hidradenitis Suppurativa Atlas (GHiSA) Global Prevalence Studies (GPS). (19-22) The  
15 uniformity in the methodological approach maintained across the GHiSA GPS presents a unique  
16 opportunity to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of the screening questionnaire (index test) in  
17 different languages and countries.

18 Using a screening questionnaire for future triage can help clinicians worldwide,  
19 including those with limited access to dermatologists, to enhance diagnostic decision making and  
20 potentially reduce the current global diagnostic delay. The objective of this study was therefore  
21 to summarize and evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of the screening questionnaire employed in  
22 the GHiSA GPS for detecting HS in healthy adults accompanying patients to the hospital. This  
23 entailed evaluating the essential diagnostic test accuracy parameters sensitivity and specificity.

1

2 **METHODS AND MATERIALS**

3 Eligible criteria

4 To maintain a high level of consistency and accuracy in the pooled results, only studies that  
5 adhered to the standardized GHSA method developed by Bouazzi D. et al (22) were eligible for  
6 inclusion. This entailed studies that investigated the prevalence of HS (target condition) among  
7 apparently healthy adults (>18 years of age) accompanying patients undergoing care at an  
8 hospital or private/family medicine clinics using a screening questionnaire (index test) first  
9 developed by Vinding et al. (17) All apparently healthy accompanying adults who consented to  
10 participate were eligible for inclusion. Exclusion criteria included pregnant women, individuals  
11 unable to provide informed consent (e.g., minors), and previously enrolled participants.

12 Departments of dermatology were also excluded as possible recruitment sites. The questionnaire  
13 contains two simple questions: '*Have you had outbreaks of boils during the last 6 months*' and  
14 *ii) 'Have you for the past 6 months had 2 or more boils/abscesses in any of the below locations*  
15 *with five different location options [axilla, groin, genitals, under the breasts and other locations*  
16 *(not specified), e.g., perianal, neck and abdomen]*'. (17, 22) A participant screened positive if  
17 they answered yes to both of the abovementioned screening questions. All screen positives and  
18 approximately ten percent of the screen negatives were instructed to receive the reference  
19 standard (i.e., clinical examination by an HS-trained physician). Moreover, only studies that had  
20 finalized the data collection prior to 2023.05.19 were eligible for inclusion. Finally, studies that  
21 adhered to the GHSA protocol but failed to produce diagnostic accuracy data (two by two tables,  
22 i.e. number of false positives, false negatives, true positives, and true negatives) were excluded  
23 from this pooled analysis. This rigorous approach was taken to minimize the heterogeneity and

1 ensure reliability and accuracy of the data. Only studies written in English were considered for  
2 inclusion. A separate ethical approval was not required for this pooled analysis.

3

4 *Data collection process*

5 The data was extracted from the eligible studies and typed into an excel sheet twice by two  
6 authors (DB and CEM). The extracted data were compared, and any discrepancies resolved  
7 through double checking or discussion. In instances where essential information was unclear, the  
8 authors were contacted in order to obtain the additional information.

9

10 *Data extraction and definitions*

11 A true positive (TP) was considered a diagnosis of HS in a healthy adult, indicated by a positive  
12 outcome on the index test (screening questionnaire) and subsequently confirmed by the reference  
13 standard (clinical examination by an HS-trained physician). A true negative (TN) was considered  
14 as a healthy adult without HS, confirmed by a negative outcome on the index test as well as for  
15 the subsequent reference standard. A false positive (FP) was characterized by a positive outcome  
16 on the index test and a subsequent absence of HS through the reference standard. Finally, a false  
17 negative (FN) was defined as a negative result on the index test, while HS was identified through  
18 the reference standard. The following data were extracted from the included studies:  
19 geographical location (country, and continent), number of TP, FN, FP, TN. These measures were  
20 retrieved from the included diagnostic cross-tabulations. Finally, the following information was  
21 also extracted: sensitivity/specificity values including confidence intervals, and positive and  
22 negative predictive values including confidence intervals.

1 Risk of bias and applicability

2 The quality of the included studies were assessed using the *quality assessment of diagnostic*  
3 *accuracy studies* tool (QUADAS-2). (23) QUADAS 2 is designed to explore the bias and  
4 applicability of diagnostic accuracy studies. It is comprised of four key domains: patient  
5 selection, index test, reference standard, and flow and timing. The studies were rated as low,  
6 high, or unclear risk and presented as a singular result, given that all studies adhered to the same  
7 methodology and approach.

8

9 Diagnostic accuracy measures

10 The data extracted from the collected diagnostic cross-tabulations were utilized to compute  
11 sensitivity and specificity for each country. The individual countries were visually represented  
12 through the depiction of sensitivity and specificity estimates, along with their corresponding 95%  
13 confidence intervals (95% CIs), calculated as exact intervals (23). The bivariate random effects  
14 meta-analysis model as implemented in the *mada* package in R (version 4.3.1) was used to  
15 combine the sensitivity and specificity proportions. The model acknowledged the assumption  
16 that variability among studies could not be attributed to chance only, and it accounted for a  
17 correlation between sensitivity and specificity. The sROC curve was plotted to visualize the  
18 trade-off between sensitivity and specificity across countries. After model fitting, the estimated  
19 parameters of the means and covariance matrix of the logit-transformed sensitivity and  
20 specificity were extracted. The sROC curve was generated by transforming the estimated  
21 parameters back to the original scale for sensitivity and specificity, i.e. by first calculating the

1 mean sensitivity and specificity on the logit scale, and then using the inverse logit transformation  
2 to convert these back to the probability scale.

3 The calculation of the area under the curve (AUC) was based on the fitted curve. AUC values  
4 ranged from 0-1, with values >0.9 indicating excellent accuracy, and values <0.6 indicating poor  
5 accuracy. (24, 25)

6

## 7 RESULTS

8 A total of 74 countries were invited to participate in the GHSA GPS. Due to varying reasons  
9 including failure to initiate, finalize or obtain ethical approval, a total of 51 countries were  
10 excluded. Finally, studies conducted in a total of 23 countries (25 studies) (19, 20, 26-48) were  
11 included in the final pooled analysis. **Figure 1** illustrates the flow diagram, with a visual  
12 representation of the included countries (studies), which depicts a flowchart of the selection  
13 process.

14

### 15 Study characteristics

16 The study characteristics are summarized in **Table 1** for all eligible studies. All the included  
17 studies employed the same index test and reference standard. The sampled population across all  
18 the studies were healthy adults accompanying a patient to the outpatient clinics of a hospital or  
19 private/family medicine clinics, excluding the department of dermatology. The percentage of  
20 screen-negatives that were clinically assessed varied from 0.4% to 36.2%. The diagnostic  
21 estimates varied across the included studies. The sensitivity varied from 0.43– 1.00 and

1 specificity from 0.15 -1.00. Studies from a total of 19/23 countries exhibited a sensitivity >90%.  
2 The positive and negative predictive values are also presented in Table 1. The PPV varied from  
3 0.05-1.00 and the NPV from 0.97-1.00. A total of 17/23 countries exhibited an NPV of 1.00.

4 Risk of bias and applicability results

5 **Supplementary table 1** present the results of the QUADAS-2. The risk of bias was low for the  
6 domains “patient selection” and “index test”. For the domain “reference standard”, the risk of  
7 bias was rated high, due to the fact that the reference standard was interpreted with the  
8 knowledge of the index test (i.e., possible presence of verification bias). The patient flow  
9 (domain 4) also introduced high risk of bias, due to the fact that not all participants received the  
10 reference standard and therefore not all were included in the final analysis (i.e., only  
11 approximately ten percent of the screen negatives received the reference standard). For  
12 applicability, there were only concerns for patient selection (domain 1), due to potential selection  
13 bias.

14 Pooled analysis of diagnostic accuracy data

15 **Figure 2** displays a paired forest plot of the sensitivity and specificity for each included country  
16 together with CIs and the  $2 \times 2$  diagnostic test accuracy tabular data. The bivariate random effects  
17 model of 23 countries, originating from 25 studies revealed a pooled sensitivity of 0.88 (95%CI;  
18 0.80 to 0.94) and a pooled specificity of 0.86 (95%CI; 0.78 to 0.91). The summary receiver  
19 operating curve (sROC) displayed in **Figure 3** visually illustrates the variations in accuracy  
20 across the included studies. The figure also features the summary point, a fitted line, and a  
21 reference line of no discrimination. Each data point on the plot corresponded to a study  
22 conducted in a specific country. Notably, the majority of the studies exhibited a clustering

1 pattern in the upper left corner of the ROC space, indicating a sensitivity and specificity close to  
2 1. All the studies were above the diagonal line, which represented the line of no-discrimination.  
3 The area under the curve (AUC) was calculated to be 0.93. This suggested excellent accuracy.

4

## 5 **DISCUSSION**

6 The objective of this study was to provide a pooled analysis of the diagnostic accuracy measures  
7 (sensitivity and specificity) of the screening questionnaire employed in the GHiSA GPS study.

8 We

9 exclusively included studies from the GHiSA GPS study to ensure uniformity in study design,  
10 study population and diagnostic threshold, therefore minimizing any potential variability arising  
11 from these factors. The results demonstrate a high diagnostic accuracy (pooled sensitivity 0.88  
12 and specificity 0.86) of the screening questionnaire in detecting HS in healthy adults  
13 accompanying patients to the hospital. For comparison, one study reported that standard  
14 mammography, a commonly used breast cancer screening tool, has a sensitivity of 60%, a  
15 specificity of approximately 80%, and an AUC of 0.73. (49) The specificity of 0.86, coupled  
16 with high NPV values and comparably lower PPV values indicate that the test is proficient in  
17 detecting true negatives, but the possibility of false positive suggest caution in relying solely on  
18 the screening questionnaire to determine a final diagnosis, meaning it should not replace clinical  
19 assessment. (50) However, the screening questionnaire could serve as valuable role in triaging or  
20 screening, ensuring that only individuals identified as screen positives undergo assessment by a  
21 dermatologist. This approach is especially beneficial in regions with limited access to specialized  
22 dermatology care. Moreover, the simplicity, speed, and cost-effectiveness of the two-question  
23 screening questionnaire makes it a practical tool for use in primary-care setting, where

1 knowledge about HS may be limited. (16, 51)

2 In our study, we observed substantial differences in sensitivity and specificity estimates across

3 the included studies, as illustrated in both forest plot and the scatter in the sROC. While this is

4 commonly attributed to factors such as heterogeneity in study design, diagnostic threshold, and

5 populations, it is noteworthy that these factors were minimal in our study, due to the exclusive

6 inclusion of GHSA studies. One explanation for the observed variations in our study can be the

7 diverse cultural contexts in which the studies were conducted, with screening questionnaires

8 being administered in different languages. Cultural interpretations and translations of symptoms

9 may have introduced inaccuracies in patient-reported data, potentially affecting the sensitivity

10 and specificity. Moreover, a significant variability in screen negatives receiving the reference

11 standard and the overall sample size across countries was also observed. Some countries had

12 small sample sizes and a low percentage of screen negatives receiving the reference standard,

13 <10% (i.e., China, Saudi Arabia and The Netherlands), raising concerns about reliability and

14 potential sampling bias. Additionally, the operator-dependent nature of the reference standard

15 introduces an additional layer of complexity, as various individuals conducted the reference

16 standard assessments. Although the assessors underwent training to identify HS, the possibility

17 of misclassification bias still remains. Finally, the assessors were not blinded to the status of the

18 index test, leading to potential observer bias, which could also impact the sensitivity and

19 specificity results.

20 This study has several potential limitations. The narrow inclusion of studies and countries

21 exclusively through the GHSA study may limit the generalizability of the findings. This

22 limitation is particularly evident in the high concern about the applicability of our results to a

23 broader population, including children. Although the decision to exclusively include GHSA

1 studies has its merits, it introduces the potential for selection bias, and therefore a risk that the  
2 external validity is compromised. Moreover, the high risk of bias in the QUADAS-2 domains  
3 “reference standard”, and “flow and timing” further lowers the validity the study. Another  
4 limitation is the absence of likelihood ratios in the pooled analysis. This prohibits us from  
5 making a more comprehensive assessment of the diagnostic test, particularly in the context of  
6 clinical decision-making.

7 Nevertheless, the study also possesses various strengths. A great advantage lies in the  
8 methodological consistency observed across the included studies. Additionally, this study  
9 presents the first and most extensive pooled analysis, with the aim of offering robust sensitivity  
10 and specificity estimates of the GHSA screening questionnaire. Finally, the inclusion of an  
11 international cohort, and the validation of the screening questionnaire in multiple languages,  
12 enhances the international applicability of the results.

13 In conclusion, this analysis estimated a pooled sensitivity and specificity of 0.88 and 0.86.  
14 Substantial variations in the estimates were observed globally. The screening questionnaire may  
15 prove useful in triaging, ensuring that only individuals fitting the criteria see specialized  
16 dermatological care. Ongoing studies within the GHSA Group are currently focused on  
17 expanding the use of the screening questionnaire as a part of the *”Grand Challenges of the Skin*  
18 *Health”*. (52)

19

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4

5 **Figure legends**

6 **Figure 1: Flowchart of included countries**

7 Flow diagram illustrating the inclusion and exclusion process of countries included in the final  
 8 pooled analysis. Initially, 74 countries were invited to participate in the Global Hidradenitis  
 9 Suppurativa Atlas (GHISA) Global Prevalence Studies. Only studies from countries that had  
 10 finalized the data collection prior to 2023.19.05 were eligible for inclusion.

11 **Figure 2: Bivariate random effect model of sensitivity and specificity of the GHISA  
 12 screening questionnaire**

13 This forest plot displays a bivariate random effects model for sensitivity and specificity  
 14 measures, encompassing data from all the included countries. Additionally, this plot includes  
 15 pooled estimates for both sensitivity and specificity. CI: confidence interval, TP: True positive,  
 16 FP: False positive, FN: False negative TN: True negative.

17 **Figure 3: Summary Receiver Operating Curve (sROC) across included countries (studies)**

18 This plot illustrates a summary receiver operating curve using data points corresponding to  
 19 different countries. The x-axis represents the false positive rate, while sensitivity is depicted on  
 20 the y-axis. The plot features a fitted line, line of no discrimination and summary point.

21

22 **Table 1: Characteristics of the included studies**

Country	Continent	Case s with HS (n)	Total screened (n)	True Positive (TP)	False Positive (FP)	False Negative (FN)	True Negative (TN)	% screen negative s clinically assesse d *	Sensitivity (CI)	Specificit y (CI)	PPV (CI)	NPV (CI)
Algeria (26)	Africa	11	1,434	11	18	0	508	36.2	1.00 (0.72- 1.00)	0.97 0.95 - 0.98	0.38 (0.21 - 0.58)	1.00 (0.99-1.00)
Australia (27)	Oceania	9	1,002	9	0	0	48	4.8	1.00 (0.66- 1.00)	1.00 0.93-1.00	1.00 (0.66-1.00)	1.00 (0.93-1.00)
Bangladesh (28)	Asia	3	2,377	3	0	0	23	1.0	1.00 (0.29- 1.00)	1.00 0.85-1.00	1.00 (0.29-1.00)	1.00 (0.85-1.00)

Chile (29)	Latin America and the Caribbean	12	500	12	8	0	50	10.4	1.00 (0.74-1.00)	0.86 0.75-0.94	0.60 (0.36-0.81)	1.00 (0.93-1.00)
China (30)	Asia	2	552	2	2	0	2	0.4	1.00 (0.16-1.00)	0.50 0.07-0.93	0.50 (0.07-0.93)	1.00 (0.16-1.00)
France (31)	Europe	18	525	18	11	0	48	9.7	1.00 (0.81-1.00)	0.81 0.69-0.90	0.62 (0.42-0.79)	1.00 (0.93-1.00)
Ghana(20, 32)	Africa	14	1,988	14	35	0	194	10.0	1.00 (0.77-1.00)	0.85 0.79-0.89	0.29 (0.17-0.43)	1.00 (0.98-1.00)
Greece (33)	Europe	1	553	1	19	0	60	11.3	1.00 (0.03-1.00)	0.76 0.65-0.85	0.05 (0.00-0.25)	1.00 (0.94-1.00)
Greenland(19)	Northern America	16	506	16	27	0	54	11.7	1.00 1.00-1.00	0.67 0.56-0.77	0.37 (0.23-0.52)	1.00 (1.00-1.00)
Indonesia (34)	Asia	14	3,237	6	24	8	362	11.5	0.43 0.18-0.71	0.94 0.91-0.96	0.20 (0.08-0.39)	0.98 (0.96-0.99)
Iran (35)	Asia	3	990	3	19	0	97	10.0	1.00 (0.29-1.00)	0.83 0.76-0.90	0.13 (0.03-0.35)	1.00 (0.96-1.00)
Malaysia (48)	Asia	7	500	7	3	0	49	10.0	1.00 0.59-1.00	0.94 0.84-0.99	0.70 (0.35-0.93)	1.00 (0.93-1.00)
Nigeria (36, 37)	Africa	51	1,700	49	13	2	139	8.6	0.96 0.87-1.00	0.91 0.86-0.95	0.79 (0.67-0.88)	0.99 (0.95-1.00)
North Macedonia (38)	Europe	5	597	3	13	2	66	11.7	0.60 0.15-0.95	0.84 0.74-0.91	0.19 (0.04-0.46)	0.97 (0.91-1.00)
Oman (39)	Asia	10	484	10	19	0	51	11.2	1.00 0.69-1.00	0.73 0.61-0.83	0.34 (0.18-0.54)	1.00 (0.93-1.00)
Papua New Guinea (40)	Oceania	2	520	1	0	1	118	22.9	0.50 0.01-0.99	1.00 0.97-1.00	1.00 (0.03-1.00)	0.99 (0.95-1.00)
Poland (41)	Europe	15	932	14	7	1	99	11.0	0.93 0.68-1.00	0.93 0.87-0.97	0.67 (0.43-0.85)	0.99 (0.95-1.00)
Saudi Arabia (42)	Asia	28	688	28	40	0	7	1.1	1.00 0.88-1.00	0.15 0.06-0.28	0.41 (0.29-0.54)	1.00 (0.59-1.00)
Serbia (43)	Europe	4	490	2	5	2	62	13.3	0.50 0.07-0.93	0.93 0.83-0.98	0.29 (0.04-0.71)	0.97 (0.89-1.00)
South Africa (44)	Africa	9	500	9	13	0	51	10.7	1.00 0.66-1.00	0.80 0.68-0.89	0.41 (0.21-0.64)	1.00 (0.93-1.00)
Sri Lanka (45)	Asia	2	993	2	0	0	96	9.7	1.00 0.16-1.00	1.00 0.96-1.00	1.00 (0.16-1.00)	1.00 (0.96-1.00)
The Netherlands (46)	Europe	4	663	4	6	0	14	2.1	1.00 0.40-1.00	0.70 0.46-0.88	0.40 (0.12-0.74)	1.00 (0.77-1.00)
Türkiye (47)	Asia	7	1,012	7	28	0	110	11.2	1.00 0.59-1.00	0.80 0.72-0.86	0.20 (0.08-0.37)	1.00 (0.97-1.00)

1 Key characteristics of included studies, encompassing details such as geographical location, and diagnostic

2 accuracy measures (sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive values, and negative predictive values). Additionally,

3 the table includes number of true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives.

4 \* Indicates the percentage of screen negative participants clinically assessed (i.e., receiving the reference standard).

5 HS: Hidradenitis Suppurativa, CI: Confidence interval, PPV: Positive predictive value, NPV: Negative predictive value

6

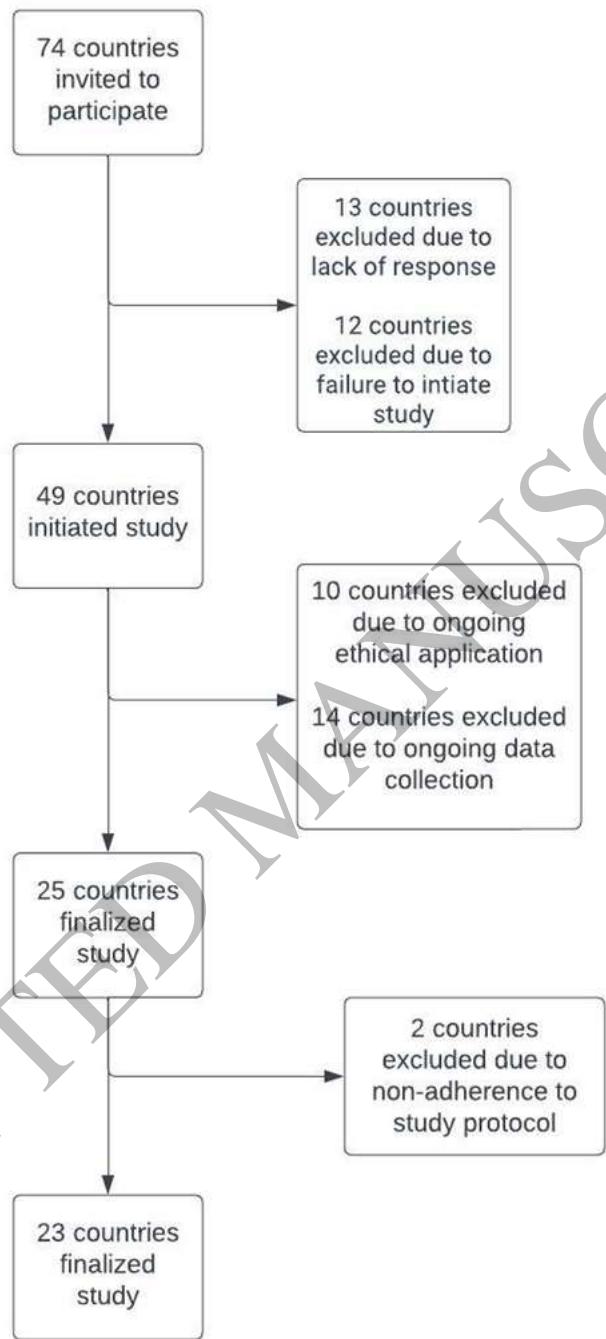


Figure 1  
91x188 mm (x DPI)

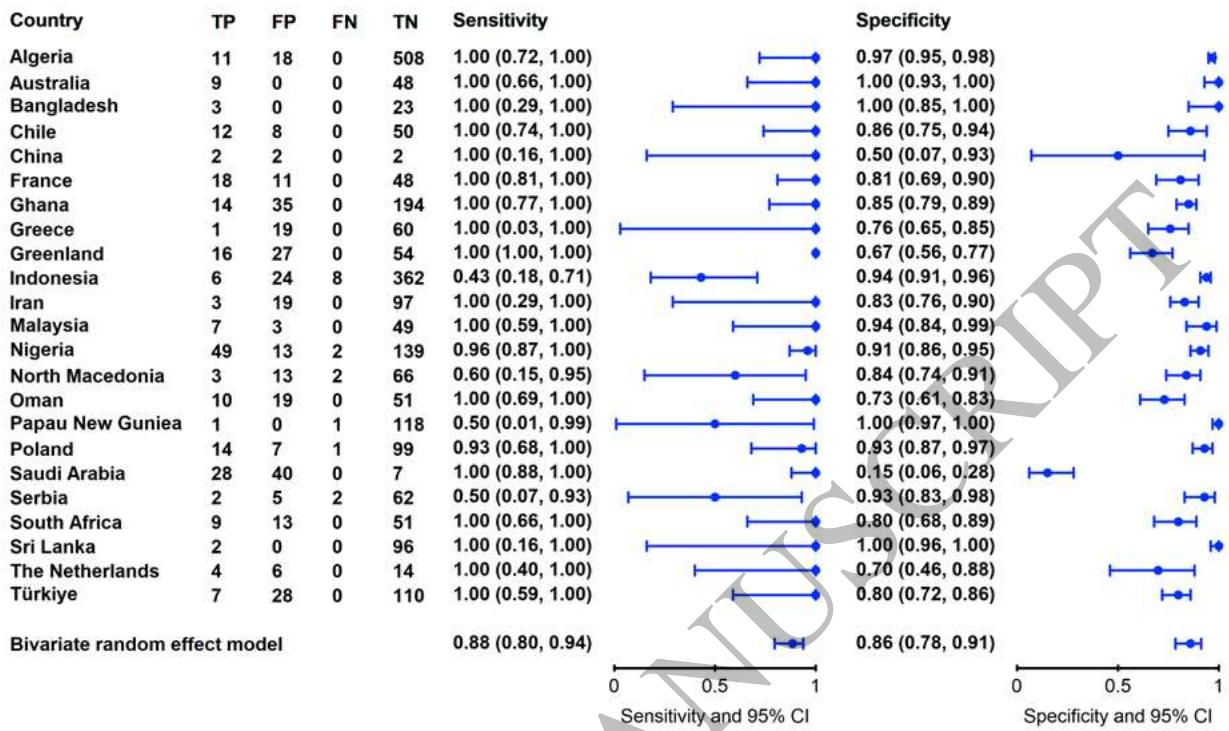
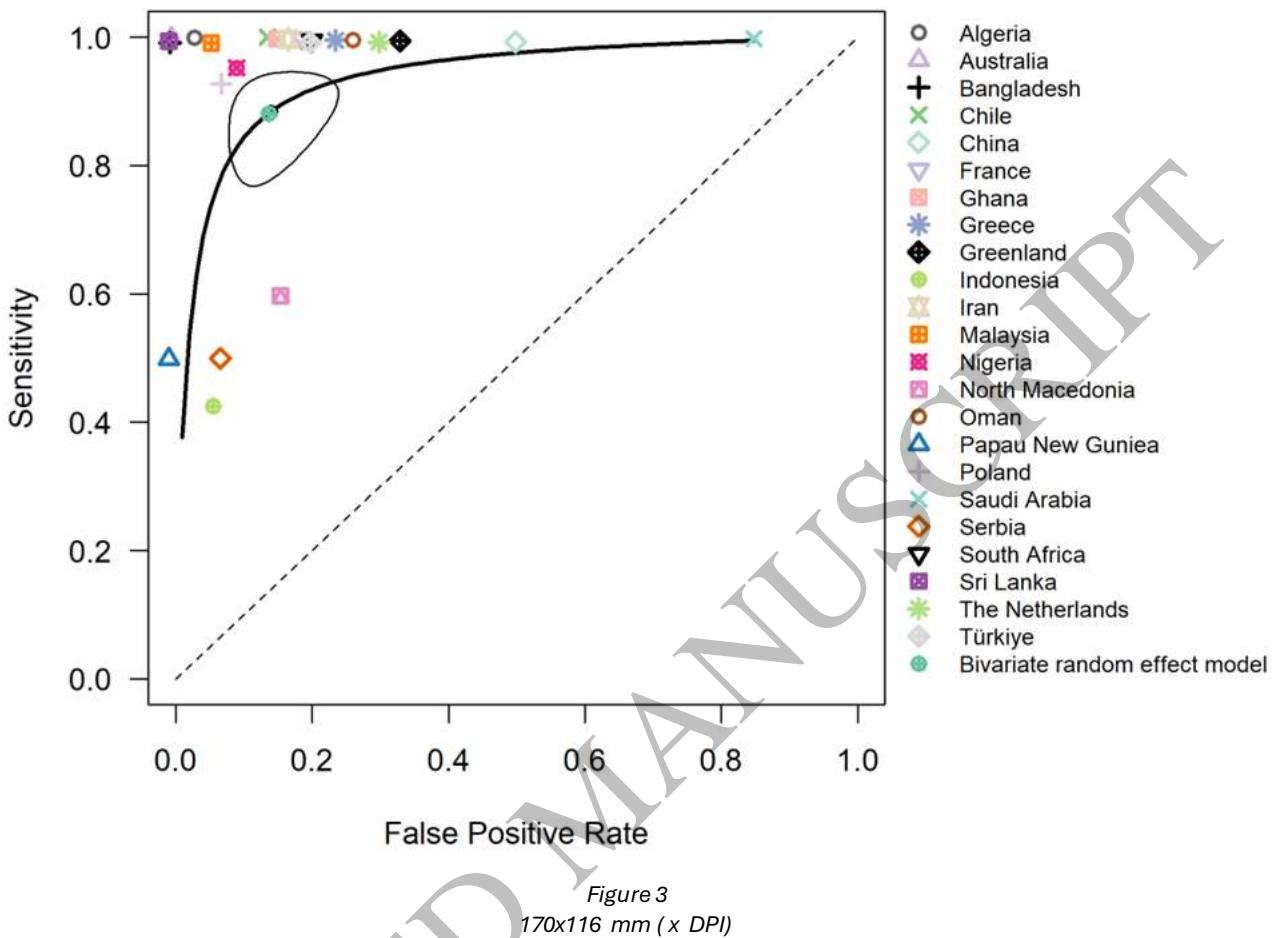


Figure 2  
170x97 mm (x DPI)

1  
2  
3



# NO COMPROMISE, JUST CLEARANCE

**Bimzelx®▼ (bimekizumab) offers the opportunity for **complete, fast, and lasting skin clearance** and proven PsA efficacy<sup>1-7</sup>**

**68.2%**

(n=238/349)

of patients with PsO achieved **PASI 100 at Week 16**

(vs 1.2% placebo [n=1/86], p<0.0001)\*, \*\*

**75.9%**

(n=265/349)

of patients with PsO achieved **PASI 75 at Week 4**

(vs 1.2% placebo [n=1/86], p<0.0001)\*, \*\*

**76.9%**

(N=52)<sup>†</sup>

of patients with PsO achieved **PASI 100 at 5 years<sup>3</sup>**

**51.5%**

(n=222/431)

**50.6%**

(n=135/267)

of biologic-naïve and TNFi-IR PsA patients achieved **ACR 50 at Week 104/100**, respectively<sup>1,4-6</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Secondary endpoints. <sup>†</sup>N= mNRI, missing data were imputed with mNRI (patients with missing data following treatment discontinuation due to lack of efficacy or a TRAE were counted as non-responders; multiple imputation methodology was used for other missing data).

**BIMZELX** was well tolerated, the most frequently reported adverse reactions were: upper respiratory tract infections and oral candidiasis. Other common reported adverse reactions include tinea infections, ear infections, herpes simplex infections, oropharyngeal candidiasis, gastroenteritis, folliculitis, headache, rash, dermatitis, eczema, acne, injection site reactions, fatigue, and vulvovaginal mycotic infection (including vulvovaginal candidiasis).<sup>4</sup>

This promotional material has been created and funded by UCB Pharma Ltd and is intended for healthcare professionals in the UK.

BIMZELX is indicated for the treatment of: moderate to severe plaque PsO in adults who are candidates for systemic therapy; active PsA, alone or in combination with methotrexate, in adults who have had an inadequate response, or who have been intolerant, to one or more DMARDs; active nr-axSpA with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated CRP and/or MRI, in adults who have responded inadequately, or are intolerant, to NSAIDs; active AS in adults who have responded inadequately or are intolerant to conventional therapy; and active moderate to severe HS (acne inversa) in adults with an inadequate response to conventional systemic HS therapy.<sup>4</sup>

Prescribing information for United Kingdom click [here](#).  
Please refer to the SmPC for further information.

These data are from different clinical trials and cannot be directly compared.

Co-primary endpoints PASI 90 and IGA 0/1 at Week 16 were met.<sup>\*\*</sup>Secondary endpoints. <sup>†</sup>N= mNRI, missing data

were imputed with mNRI (patients with missing data following treatment discontinuation due to lack of efficacy or a TRAE were counted as non-responders; multiple imputation methodology was used for other missing data).

<sup>1</sup>43.9% (n=189/431), and 43.4% (n=116/267) of biologic-naïve and TNFi-IR PsA patients achieved the primary

endpoint of ACR 50 at Week 16 in BE OPTIMAL and BE COMPLETE, respectively (vs 10.0% [n=28/281] and 6.8% [n=9/133] placebo, p<0.0001); 54.5% (n=235/431) and 51.7% (n=138/267) maintained it at Week 52 (NRI).<sup>4-6</sup>

**ACR 50**, ≥50% response in the American College of Rheumatology criteria; **AS**, ankylosing spondylitis; **CRP**, C-reactive protein; **DMARD**, disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; **HS**, hidradenitis suppurativa; **IGA**, Investigator's Global Assessment; **(m)NRI**, (modified) non-responder imputation; **MRI**, magnetic resonance imaging; **nr-axSpA**, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis; **NSAID**, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; **PASI 75/100**, ≥75/90/100% improvement from baseline in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index; **PsA**, psoriatic arthritis; **Psd**, psoriatic disease; **PsO**, psoriasis; **TNFi-IR**, tumour necrosis factor-α inhibitor – inadequate responder; **TRAE**, treatment-related adverse event.

**References:** 1. Gordon KB, et al. Lancet. 2021;397(10273):475–486. 2. Blauvelt. 2025. AAD Presentation 62275. 3.

Mease PJ, et al. Rheumatol Ther. 2024;11(5):1363–1382. 4. BIMZELX SmPC. 5. Ritchlin CT, et al. Ann Rheum Dis. 2023;82(11):1404–1414. 6. Coates LC, et al. RMD Open. 2024;10(1):e003855. 7. Strober B, et al. AAD 2024;oral presentation.

▼This medicine is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at [www.yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk) for the UK. Adverse events should also be reported to UCB Pharma Ltd at UCBCare.UK@UCB.com or 0800 2793177 for UK.