

Our research explained

## BRCsnapshots

### How does COVID-19 affect people with psoriasis?



#### What we know

Psoriasis is a common skin disease affecting 2-4% of people worldwide. It is caused by an overactive immune system, and affected individuals develop red, scaly patches of skin that can be itchy and painful. The condition can also have a profound impact on physical and emotional wellbeing.

It is not currently understood how COVID-19 affects people with psoriasis, and whether there is a need for clinicians and patients to consider adapting their usual immunosuppressant treatments.



Around 125 million people worldwide have psoriasis



Around 1 in 3 people with psoriasis has a relative who has the disease



Psoriasis is linked to other long term conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and depression

Source: National Psoriasis Foundation 2020

#### What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus (a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans). The most common symptoms are fever, dry cough and loss of or change to taste and smell. There are a range of other symptoms which are less well understood at this time.

## What we are doing

Our researchers and clinicians have launched two global registries to understand the impact of COVID-19 on people with psoriasis.

The PsoProtect registry collects data from clinicians around the world on patients with psoriasis and COVID-19, while the PsoProtectMe registry collects data from patients themselves (whether or not they have had COVID-19) on their experiences and behaviours in the pandemic.

## How will this change care

“The PsoProtect registry has the potential to improve our understanding of how underlying medical conditions and the treatments we use for psoriasis affect outcomes of COVID-19 in people with psoriasis. This information may help inform assessments of risk of COVID-19 in people with psoriasis and guide clinical decision making around their treatments in the pandemic.

“By collecting information directly from patients using PsoProtectMe, we also hope to gain a better understanding of the experiences and health behaviours of everyone with psoriasis during the pandemic.

“Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the registries so far.”

Dr Satveer Mahil, consultant dermatologist, St John’s Institute of Dermatology at Guy’s and St Thomas’.



### Further information

Please contact the team at [psoprotect@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:psoprotect@kcl.ac.uk)

### Links to information on the registries and summaries of the data

[psoprotect.org](http://psoprotect.org)  
[psoprotectme.org](http://psoprotectme.org)

### About our NIHR Guy’s and St Thomas’ Biomedical Research Centre

Our NIHR Biomedical Research Centre is a partnership between Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and King’s College London. We work to develop and deliver new medicines and diagnostics to patients. We drive research and innovation into the NHS to provide maximum impact to our patients.

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