Myths vs. Facts: About Biosimilars

Biosimilars are safe, effective alternative versions of existing brand biologic medicines (known as "reference products") with scientifically comparable quality, safety and effectiveness. Biologic medicines are expensive for patients, taxpayers and insurers. Biosimilars provide important competition, which can help lower costs and increase patient access to lifesaving medications.

What are biosimilars?

A biosimilar is a biologic medicine that is highly similar to a brand biologic medicine. FDA has approved 5 biosimilars[1] to treat Crohn's Disease, cancer, psoriasis and other conditions; 60+ more in development.[2,3]

Myths

"Biosimilars are less safe for patients than brand biologics."

"Biosimilars aren't as effective as brand biologics."

"Biosimilars may offer patients *some* savings, but not enough."

"Biosimilars will only help a small number of people."

Facts

Biosimilars undergo
rigorous FDA testing, review and safety monitoring.
The biosimilars development process is complex and companies that manufacture biosimilars are committed to providing safe, effective products to patients.

10+ years
of patient use of biosimilars in the EU has shown no difference in health outcomes between patients who use a biosimilar and those who take the original branded biologic medicine.[4]

Experts estimate that biosimilars will be priced 10 to 35% less than their brand drug prices.[5] Consumers could save as much as
$250 billion
in the next decade.[6]

Biosimilars will
increase patient access to important life-saving medications
and help drive down the cost of brand biologics, positively impacting some of the most vulnerable patient groups, including those with low incomes, senior citizens and those with multiple, chronic diseases.

References

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