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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/96z458nr>

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### Publication Date

2023-04-01

### DOI

10.1016/j.semarthrit.2023.152165

Peer reviewed



Published in final edited form as:

*Semin Arthritis Rheum.* 2023 April ; 59: 152165. doi:10.1016/j.semarthrit.2023.152165.

## Psoriatic disease and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease shared pathogenesis review

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### Abstract

Psoriatic disease (PD) and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) potentially share disease pathways given the numerous inflammatory pathways involved in both diseases and a higher prevalence of NAFLD in PD patients. Metabolic syndrome and obesity are a key link between the two diseases, but even when controlling for this, associations between both diseases are still seen. Therapeutics that impact metabolic or inflammatory pathways may be impactful in both PD and

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#### Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

Dr. Loomba serves as a consultant or advisory board member for Anylam/Regeneron, Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myer Squibb, CohBar, Eli Lilly, Galmed, Gilead, Glympse bio, Inipharm, Intercept, Ionis, Janssen Inc., Merck, Metacrine, Inc., NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Promethera, Sagimet, 89 bio, and Viking Therapeutics. In addition, his institution has received grant support from Allergan, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Cirius, Eli Lilly and Company, Galectin Therapeutics, Galmed Pharmaceuticals, GE, Genfit, Gilead, Intercept, Inventiva, Janssen, Madrigal Pharmaceuticals, Merck, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Pfizer, pH Pharma, and Siemens. He is also co-founder of Liponex, Inc. Dr Guma serves as a consultant of SonomaBio, and has received grant support from Novartis, Pfizer, Gilead and Genetech. Dr Kavanaugh serves as a consultant of SonomaBio, and has received grant support from Novartis, and Pfizer. They had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**Kelly Torosian:** Investigation, Writing – original draft. **Esha Lai:** Investigation, Writing – original draft. **Arthur Kavanaugh:** Investigation, Validation, Writing – review & editing. **Rohit Loomba:** Investigation, Validation, Writing – review & editing. **Veeral Ajmera:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Investigation, Validation, Writing – review & editing. **Monica Guma:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Investigation, Validation, Writing – review & editing.

NAFLD. In this review, we describe common inflammatory pathways contributing to both PD and NAFLD and critically review the potential impact of treatments for and on both diseases.

### Keywords

Psoriatic disease; Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; Pathogenesis; Inflammatory pathways; Insulin resistance

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### Background

Psoriatic disease (PD) is defined as the spectrum of conditions associated with the immune-mediated diseases psoriasis (PsO) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA). The defining condition of psoriatic disease is psoriasis (PsO). Psoriasis is a heterogeneous inflammatory condition that often presents with scaly, erythematous plaques on the trunk, scalp, and extensor surfaces. PsA, another common manifestation of PD, is characterized by immune-mediated inflammation of the joints and entheses [1]. Approximately one-third of patients in North America with PsO were found to have coexisting PsA [2]. PD has a significant burden of disease and affects more than 8 million individuals in the United States and approximately 2–3% of people worldwide [3].

PD is associated with a host of comorbid conditions including cardiovascular disease, mood disorders, and metabolic syndrome [4]. An association between PD and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), which is the hepatic manifestation of metabolic syndrome, has also been noted. NAFLD is the most common chronic liver disease in the world and is diagnosed by the presence of pathologic hepatic steatosis (≥ 5%) on imaging or liver biopsy in individuals who consume little or no alcohol and are without any secondary causes of hepatic steatosis [5]. For a subset of individuals, primarily those with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), NAFLD is a progressive illness that can lead to fibrosis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma [6].

Approximately 20% of individuals with NAFLD have NASH, and 20% of these individuals may develop cirrhosis typically over a 20 to 30 year period [7]. A meta-analysis published in 2022 found that patients with psoriasis had almost double the odds of having NAFLD compared to patients without psoriasis (95% CI [1.70–2.26];  $p < 0.001$ ) [8]. In addition, psoriasis patients with NAFLD also exhibited more severe skin disease [8,9].

This association was initially seen in a UK cross-sectional study of 9035 patients with psoriasis that investigated major comorbidities of psoriasis and correlation of psoriasis severity with these comorbidities. Patients were classified as mild, moderate or severe based on the degree of body surface area affected. Psoriasis was associated with 1.4 times higher prevalence of fatty liver disease compared to age matched controls (95% CI [1.12–1.76]) and secondary analysis revealed higher prevalence of NAFLD in patients with more severe psoriasis. An additional control-matched study found the frequency of NAFLD greater in psoriasis patients compared to controls (47% vs 28%;  $p < 0.0001$ ) and additionally described a greater severity of psoriasis based on Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score (14.2 vs 9.6;  $p < 0.01$ ) in psoriasis patients with NAFLD compared to those without NAFLD. In

multivariate regression analysis, this association was independent of age, gender, and BMI [10].

While some studies have described the prevalence of liver disease in patients with psoriasis, very few have included patients with PsA [258,259]. One performed a population-based study in The Health Improvement Network. This study described the prevalence of liver disease and cirrhosis increased in patients with PsA [258]. Of note, the prevalence of liver disease and cirrhosis increased in a stepwise fashion with increasing body surface area affected by psoriasis. Yet, this study did not include imaging or histologic validation of liver disease. The other group documented the prevalence of liver disease among a mixed population with psoriasis and PsA utilizing percutaneous liver biopsy [259]. The prevalence of NASH was 22% of patients and more than one-third of these patients had stage 2-3 fibrosis, but liver biopsy was conducted only in a subset of these patients. The prevalence of NAFLD and NASH.

The association between disease severity of PD and concomitant NAFLD, and the presence of common other comorbidities suggests that there may potentially be shared etiopathogenic factors. In this review, we describe common inflammatory pathways contributing to both PD and NAFLD. We critically review the potential impact of treatments for PD on NAFLD and treatments for NAFLD on PD. Finally, we provide additional insight into a personalized approach to managing patients who have both PD and NAFLD.

## Shared pathogenesis for NAFLD and PD

PD is thought to be caused by immune system activation following an environmental stimulus (infection or trauma) in genetically susceptible individuals. Immune cells including macrophages, T cells, and neutrophils infiltrate the dermis and aberrantly produce cytokines which drive the uncontrolled keratinocyte proliferation and dysfunctional differentiation – two processes central to the pathogenesis of PsO [11]. The pathogenesis of PsA is closely linked to PsO in that it also involves an aberrant immune response and dysregulated cytokine production.

NAFLD pathogenesis is driven in part by excess lipid accumulation in the liver. Increased lipid deposition relative to decreased lipid removal by lipoproteins such as VLDL play a role in lipid accumulation in the liver. Three pathways contribute to hepatic lipid accumulation – high dietary lipid intake, fatty acid release from adipose tissue, and de novo lipogenesis in the liver. Hepatocytes are injured by precursors of triglyceride metabolism, and in turn, these hepatocytes release factors that promote immune cell migration and cause further liver injury from cytokines [12]. NAFLD is also affected by environmental factors, elevated BMI, and predisposing genetic factors that can also alter lipid homeostasis [13].

Mantovani et al. hypothesized that PD patients with NAFLD have a higher level of baseline inflammation than those without NAFLD [14]. The source of this inflammation is due to the hepato-dermal axis of inflammation (with contributions from the skin, liver, and adipose tissue). Psoriatic patients with NAFLD exhibit not only more severe psoriasis but also higher levels of C-reactive protein, a marker of underlying inflammation, as compared to psoriatic

patients without NAFLD [15]. A higher prevalence of advanced liver fibrosis is noted in PsO patients, and they also exhibit an increased risk of developing advanced liver fibrosis even when controlling for confounders such as BMI, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome [16,17].

## Insulin resistance

Insulin resistance is seen in both psoriasis and NAFLD, independent of obesity [18]. The proinflammatory cytokines including Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha (TNF-alpha), IL-6, IL-17, and IL-22 and growth hormones, are elevated in psoriasis and contribute to insulin resistance by impairing insulin signaling in the body [19]. Cytokines and TNF-alpha are recognized as playing a crucial role in insulin sensitivity and inflammation, and Boehncke et al. found that the severity of psoriasis was significantly associated with increased insulin resistance [20].

## Adipokines

Obesity is an established risk factor for NAFLD, affecting 50–90% of all obese adults [21–23]. Psoriatic patients also exhibit a higher prevalence of obesity as compared to the general population [22]. Weight loss decreases the burden of psoriatic skin disease and increases responsiveness to treatment [17]. Recent studies have supported a key role of adipokines in the relationship between obesity, psoriasis, and NAFLD.

## Adiponectin

Adiponectin, a hormone that promotes insulin sensitivity and fatty acid oxidation, is closely associated with psoriasis and NAFLD [24]. Adiponectin is produced by adipose tissue, but plasma levels of adiponectin are paradoxically decreased in obesity due to excess visceral fat. The exact mechanism of this is unknown but it is thought to be related to an additional inhibitor of adiponectin that is also secreted by excess adipose tissue [25,26]. Adiponectin also plays a role in the regulation of inflammation. Adiponectin inhibits the production and action of TNF-alpha and IL-6 [27,28]. Adiponectin has an inhibitory effect on the IL-17 pathway described in detail below that drives psoriasis (Fig. 1) [29].

Adiponectin has also been linked to the production of anti-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-10 [30]. Kyriakou et al. showed that patients with psoriasis had lower plasma adiponectin levels compared to patients without psoriasis [31]. The exact mechanism is unknown, but is thought to be due to excess visceral adiposity, further supporting the link between metabolic syndrome and psoriasis [31]. Additionally, moderate and severe forms of psoriasis are associated with progressively lower levels of adiponectin as compared to milder forms [32].

Given the role of adiponectin in promoting insulin sensitivity and decreasing inflammation, it has also been studied in association with NAFLD [33]. Patients with NAFLD were shown to have significantly lower plasma adiponectin levels as compared to control patients [34]. A prospective study conducted in 2012 showed that patients with lower baseline levels of adiponectin were more likely to develop NAFLD over the course of 7 years as compared to those with higher baseline levels [35]. Lower levels of adiponectin have also been significantly associated with NAFLD severity (diagnosed via liver biopsy) [34]. Given

its role in the pathogenesis of both diseases, adiponectin levels could act as a risk marker in both conditions and potential target for treatment.

## Leptin

Leptin, an adipokine that has been closely linked to NAFLD and PD, is produced by fat cells and is increased in obese individuals. Leptin is best known for its role in appetite suppression, but it also plays a role in systemic inflammation by promoting the production of various proinflammatory cytokines including TNF-alpha and IL-6 (Fig. 1) [36-38]. Hammingma et al. hypothesized that the production of these cytokines contributes to the development of psoriasis [38].

Leptin has also been associated with keratinocyte proliferation—a hallmark of psoriasis [39]. At baseline, PsO patients have been shown to have significantly higher circulating leptin levels compared to control patients [40]. Moreover, studies have shown that higher leptin/leptin receptor expression is observed in patients with more severe psoriasis as compared to those with milder disease [41]. Leptin's association with psoriasis is maintained even after controlling for obesity which could suggest that there are additional sources of leptin outside of adipose tissue [40].

Leptin is also strongly associated with NAFLD. Leptin binds to its receptor in hepatocytes and results in the phosphorylation of JAK2 which increases the expression of suppressors of cytokine signaling (SOCS-3) that act as a negative feedback loop to inhibit leptin and insulin signaling (Fig. 1). Overexpression of SOCS-3 can lead to leptin resistance [13]. Hyperleptinemia is thought to contribute to NAFLD in two ways. First, it promotes insulin resistance through IL-6 and TNF-alpha and leads to decreased lipid oxidation as well as increased synthesis of triglycerides and fatty acids [42]. Leptin is also thought to potentially decrease binding capacity of insulin to its receptors on the liver and increase lipogenesis in the liver when it is at very high levels in the body [13].

Leptin also contributes to the progression of NAFLD to NASH by promoting inflammation (via production of TNF-alpha) and fibrosis. It is thought to increase the activity of fibrotic cells in the liver including stellate cells, Kupffer cells, and sinusoidal endothelial cells (Fig. 1) [43,44]. Increased severity of NAFLD (via both fibroscan and NAFLD fibrosis scores) is associated with higher levels of circulating leptin. This relationship was preserved even when controlling for race, age, and gender and was strongest in patients with classic NAFLD (BMI>30) [45].

## Cytokines

Patients with PD and NAFLD have high levels of baseline inflammation. Adipose tissue, psoriatic skin lesions, and livers with NAFLD produce and release multiple pro-inflammatory cytokines [14]. In the following section, we will describe the role of several important cytokines in the shared pathogenesis and progression of PD and NAFLD. As described in Mantovani et al., while there appears to be a network of inflammation, all the contributors to the network (and the directionality of their contributions) are not completely

understood.<sup>14</sup> Both psoriatic skin lesions and livers with NAFLD release proinflammatory cytokines, thereby contributing to systemic inflammation [19,46,47].

### TNF-alpha

TNF alpha is elevated in the skin and synovium of psoriatic disease patients and is a key cytokine in the innate immune response that drives PD. It works by driving the release of other cytokines including IL-1 and IL-6 and increasing production of adhesion molecules [48]. TNF-alpha, in turn, plays a role in insulin resistance because it activates pro-inflammatory networks that lead to impaired insulin signaling at the level of the insulin receptors on myocytes and adipocytes. This interaction is further elucidated by TNF-alpha inhibitors like infliximab and etanercept which have been shown to promote insulin sensitivity in patients with both PD and Type II Diabetes Mellitus [49,50].

TNF-alpha is also secreted by hepatocytes and Kupffer cells in the liver, as well as indirectly secreted by abdominal fat (Fig. 1) [51]. TNF-alpha promotes insulin resistance as well as hepatic steatosis and triglyceride accumulation in the liver [52]. Over time this can lead to liver injury and inflammation. TNF-alpha has also been shown to be involved with the progression of NAFLD to cirrhosis [53]. In a study of patients with NASH, those with a higher degree of liver fibrosis had higher circulating levels of TNF-alpha [54].

### IL-17

IL-17 is important for the pathogenesis and progression of PD. PsO patients exhibit more IL-17A+ cells in skin lesion samples when compared to healthy controls [55]. Additionally, IL-17 mRNA levels in psoriatic lesions positively correlate with disease activity [56]. IL-17 produces downstream cytokines such as IL-36, IL-19, and IL-22 which promote epidermal hyperplasia and parakeratosis (Fig. 1) [57]. Additionally, IL-17 induces the expression of S100 and LCN2 – two genes important for PsO progression. IL-17 also upregulates chemokine ligand CCL20 and chemokine receptor CCR6 which work synergistically to recruit T cells into the skin further driving skin inflammation [55,57,58].

There is also an association between IL-17 and PsA. Synovial biopsies from patients with PsA show elevated expression of IL-17 compared to synovium obtained from healthy controls [59]. IL-17 receptor expression is increased in synoviocytes obtained from PsA patients [60]. IL-17 contributes to PsA by upregulating proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-6 and matrix metalloproteinases (MMP-3) which contribute to the inflammation and tissue remodeling [1,61,62]. In murine models of inflammatory arthritis (collagen-induced arthritis), IL-17A expression promotes osteoclast expansion and bone resorption [63]. IL-17 signaling also upregulates RANKL receptor expression [62].

IL-17 also plays an important role in the development of NAFLD. In human hepatic tissue, the extent of steatosis is positively correlated with the number of IL-17A+ cells ( $R = 0.5425$ ;  $p = 0.007$ ). Additionally, triglyceride levels within hepatocytes are positively correlated with IL-17A mRNA levels ( $R = 0.2432$ ;  $p = 0.0442$ ) [64]. Murine models of NAFLD and NASH have helped elucidate IL-17's role in the disease. In mice on a high fat diet, IL-17 was shown to activate a c-Jun N-terminal kinases-dependent pathway that inhibits PPAR-alpha—an important regulator of fatty acid beta-oxidation. This is one potential

mechanism by which IL-17 promotes triglyceride accumulation in the liver. In the same model, treatment with recombinant IL-17 led to hepatic steatosis, oxidative liver damage, and aminotransferase elevations [65].

IL-17 may also play an important role in the development of NASH. Tang et al. demonstrated that IL-17 plays a role in the evolution of simple steatosis to steatohepatitis [66]. In the choline-deficient diet-induced (MCD) murine model for NASH, IL-17A activates JNK-1 – a MAPKinase involved in hepatic fibrosis and lipoapoptosis [67-69]. IL-17A also promotes fibrosis by upregulating the expression of the TGF-Beta receptor (profibrotic cytokine) on hepatic stellate cells (Fig. 1) [70]. IL-17 also plays a role in inflammatory cell recruitment to the liver. Tang et al. showed that IL-17 blockade after inducing systemic and hepatic inflammation in the mice with lipopolysaccharide (LPS) injection decreased inflammatory cells in the liver [66]. IL-17 knockout in MCD mice resulted in markedly decreased lobular inflammation compared to the WT [68].

## IL-22

IL-22 has also been closely associated with PD. Biopsies obtained from psoriatic skin lesions contain higher levels of IL-22 compared to biopsies obtained from healthy controls [71]. Plasma levels of IL-22 are upregulated in PsO patients and positively correlated with PsO disease severity [71]. IL-22 upregulates multiple genes involved in the migration of keratinocytes and downregulates the differentiation of keratinocytes through signaling molecules [71]. IL-22 treatment of in vitro models of human skin resulted in parakeratosis, acanthosis, and epidermal hyperplasia – further histological evidence of the impaired differentiation (Fig. 1) [72,73].

The role of IL-22 in the pathogenesis of PsA is unclear. Mitra et al. showed increased levels of IL-22 in synovial fluid samples obtained from PsA patients as compared to samples obtained from OA patients [60]. Additionally, treatment of fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) obtained from patients with PsA with recombinant IL-22 resulted in significantly increased proliferation. Blockade of the IL-22R with a monoclonal antibody inhibited the FLS proliferation suggesting a potential role of IL-22 in pannus formation. Although IL-22 has been identified in synovial fluid in patients with PsA, it has not been identified in synovial tissue samples [74]. Moreover, studies in mouse models of immune-mediated arthritis have implicated IL-23 (through its actions on the  $\gamma\delta$  T cells) as the primary driver of joint inflammation, bony erosions, and enthesal inflammation. This suggests that PsA arthropathy develops independently of IL-22 [63,75-77].

IL-22 has been shown to have mixed effects on the liver. IL-22 promotes the production of multiple acute phase reactants in the liver including serum amyloid A and fibrinogen [78]. IL-22 also recruits fibrosis-promoting Th17 cells to the liver through its effect on CCL20 [68]. On the other hand, IL-22 has been shown to be hepatoprotective against liver injury in murine models of liver disease. IL-22 activates STAT3 which mediates multiple downstream anti-apoptotic genes such as Mcl-1, Bcl-2, and Bcl-xL. IL-22 is also mitogenic, promoting the formation of c-Myc and cyclin D1 [79]. In a murine model of autoimmune hepatitis, neutralization of IL-22 antibodies led to significant increases in ALT and AST and significant necrosis of the liver. Conversely, ALT/AST elevations and necrosis were



markedly less when injection of recombinant IL-22 preceded liver injury [79]. Finally, IL-22 promotes the production of antioxidants like metallothionein 1 and 2, enhancing hepatic tissue regeneration [80].

## IL-6

Psoriatic plaques in patients with PsO exhibit much higher levels of IL-6 as compared to samples obtained from healthy non-lesional skin. Patients with active PsO also exhibit elevated plasma levels of IL-6 than healthy controls [81,82]. Two potential sources for the elevated IL-6 have been proposed in patients with PsO – peripheral blood monocytes and keratinocytes [82,83]. IL-6 induces phosphorylation of STAT3 which leads to increased cell proliferation and the development of other histological features of PsO. IL-6 also plays a role in the IL-23/IL-17 pathway by inducing CD4+ T cells to differentiate into IL-17 producing Th17 cells (Fig. 1) [84].

IL-6 also contributes to the development of PsA. Synovial tissue analyses in patients with PsA show increased expression of IL-6 [85]. Patients with PsA have significantly higher plasma levels of IL-6 than control patients with OA [86]. Plasma levels also appear to correlate with disease activity including number of swollen and painful joints, ESR, and CRP levels [87]. IL-6 is thought to contribute to PsA by promoting synovitis, bone resorption, and cartilage degeneration as well as synovial hyperplasia, neovascularization, and infiltration of inflammatory cells into synovium [88].

In a study of 50 patients with NAFLD, researchers found increased IL-6 expression in livers of patients with NASH as compared to patients with only steatosis or normal controls. Furthermore, the severity of inflammation and stage of fibrosis was directly related to the hepatic expression of IL-6. Interestingly, these patients also had higher rates of insulin resistance suggesting another shared pathway between NAFLD and PD [89].

## IL-23

IL-23 is a major driver of PD. Lesional skin biopsies in patients with PsO contain significantly higher levels of IL-23 p19 mRNA as compared to skin biopsies taken from lesion-free areas [90]. The IL-23 pathway works in conjunction with IL-17 in PD. Environmental stimuli (trauma or infection) and autoantigen presentation stimulate TNF-alpha production. TNF-alpha activates dendritic cells in the skin that produce IL-23 [57,91,92]. IL-23 promotes the production of IL-17 and IL-22 by activating Th-17 and Th-22 cells [57]. In PsA specifically, IL-23 activates Th-17 cells and triggers the STAT3 and RAR-related orphan receptor gamma signaling pathway responsible for producing IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-23R [93]. Th17 cells also produce TNF, interferon gamma, and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor [94]. As outlined above, IL-17 and IL-22 play important roles in the pathogenesis of PsA and PsO.

IL-23 also plays a role in the development of NAFLD. IL-23 expression is upregulated in NAFLD patients compared to healthy controls. Similar to PD, IL-23 modulates the activation and differentiation of Th17 cells and production of IL-17. As described above, IL-17 plays a central role in the development of NAFLD and the progression from NAFLD to NASH (Fig. 1) [95].

## PD and NAFLD treatments

### Weight loss and diet

There are no medications currently approved to treat NAFLD, and the mainstay of treatment continues to be weight loss and lifestyle modifications [96-99]. Weight loss of 5% of total body weight can reduce hepatic steatosis, while losing up to 10% of body weight can reduce lobular inflammation, ballooning, and fibrosis on liver biopsy. Modest weight loss also improves systemic inflammation by reducing excess visceral fat and improving insulin resistance [96]. Vilar-Gomez et al. demonstrated a dose-response relationship between weight loss and histological changes in a prospective study of patients with NASH with 45% of patients with >10% of body weight loss showing biopsy proven regression of fibrosis [100].

Weight loss is also efficacious in the treatment of psoriatic diseases. A randomized control trial conducted by Jensen et al. showed that reduction in PASI scores was significantly correlated with weight loss in overweight patients with psoriasis [101]. The study also hypothesized that there may be a dose-response relationship because the greatest reductions in PASI scores occurred during the first phase of the study when participants lost the most weight [101]. In an RCT conducted in 2014, Naldi et al., showed that dietary intervention and increased physical activity led to weight loss and reduction in mean PASI scores in overweight and obese patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis [102]. Weight loss also improves responsiveness of patients with PsO to low-dose cyclosporine and anti-TNF therapy [17,103].

Multiple studies have also demonstrated the value of the Mediterranean diet in improving NAFLD.<sup>104,105</sup> A study of 12 non-diabetic patients with NAFLD found that when comparing the Mediterranean diet with a low fat/high carbohydrate diet, those on the Mediterranean diet showed a significant reduction in hepatic steatosis and improved insulin sensitivity. Interestingly, these patients did not have a significant reduction in weight, further exemplifying that there are likely inflammatory pathways in NAFLD that are independent of obesity [104]. Kontogianni et al. also studied the Mediterranean diet in NAFLD patients and found that those who were adherent to the diet had less severe liver disease and less insulin resistance [105]. The Mediterranean diet has also been studied in PD patients. A cross-sectional observational study conducted by Phan et al. showed that adherence to a prescribed Mediterranean diet was significantly and inversely related to psoriasis severity, but further studies should be done to determine if a causal relationship is present [106].

### PD treatments in NAFLD

There have been significant advances in FDA approved therapeutics for PD over the last 20 years, most significant are those that target the aforementioned cytokine and adipokine pathways. TNF-alpha inhibitors (Infliximab, Adalimumab, Etanercept, Certolizumab, and Golimumab) are efficacious in the treatment of PD (PsO and PsA) and show promise in NAFLD and NASH (Table 1). Studies in rat and mouse models of NAFLD and NASH showed that treatment with infliximab reduces inflammation, steatosis, insulin resistance, and fibrosis induced by a high-fat diet [107-109]. In a rat model of NASH, treatment

with adalimumab improved histology and LFTs, although it did not protect against the development of NASH [110].

A cross-sectional study in 2010 showed that TNF-alpha inhibitors may protect against the development of fibrosis in patients with PsA [111]. This finding was reproduced by Campanati et al., 2013 who showed that etanercept decreased the odds of developing hepatic fibrosis in patients with PsO and NAFLD [112]. Although promising, additional studies on TNF-inhibitors in human subjects with both PD and NAFLD are needed to assess if they are able to treat both conditions simultaneously.

IL-17 blockade is also effective in treating PsO and PsA. A recent study in patients with active PsA and PsO showed that treatment with ixekizumab (IL-17A inhibitor) (IXE) led to symptom improvement (Table 1). Achievement of PASI 100 AND ACR 50 (scores to measure disease improvement) simultaneously was higher in patients treated with IXE compared to patients treated with adalimumab (ADA) (39.2% vs 26.1%;  $p<0.001$ ), demonstrating that IXE is superior to ADA (TNF-alpha inhibitor) in simultaneously treating joint and skin symptoms[113].

The efficacy of IL-17 blockade has not been formally studied in patients with NAFLD. In mouse models of NAFLD and NASH, IL-17 blockade decreases hepatic steatosis and hepatic infiltration of inflammatory cells (Table 1) [39,68]. Although further studies are needed to evaluate if IL-17 blockade can effectively treat both NAFLD and PD, IL-17 is not hepatotoxic and likely safe to use in patients with PD and NAFLD. A recent study by Gerdes et al. showed that treatment with secukinumab (an IL-17A antagonist) in patients with PD promoted a small decrease in body weight and did not worsen AST and ALT levels[114].

Therapeutic administration of IL-22 has been explored in murine models only (Table 1). One study in a high-fat-diet-fed mice model of NAFLD showed that recombinant IL-22 improved insulin resistance and hepatic steatosis through its effect on a downstream lipid metabolism gene [115]. In mice homozygous for obesity mutation fed with a high-fat diet, recombinant IL-22 decreased triglyceride and cholesterol levels in the liver, as well as downregulated expression of genes important for lipogenesis [116]. Given IL-22's hepatoprotective properties, recombinant IL-22 has been studied in human patients with other liver conditions. One phase 2 clinical trial showed recombinant IL-22 significantly decreased MELD scores, inflammatory markers, and aminotransferase levels and upregulated regenerative markers in patients with moderate to severe alcoholic hepatitis [117].

IL-17 blockade could also be a means of increasing endogenous levels of IL-22. Knockout of IL-17 in a mouse model of NAFLD increased the number of Th22 (IL-22 producing) cells. The presence of IL-17 attenuates the protective effects of IL-22 through inhibition of the PI3K-Akt signaling pathway. Therefore, IL-22 levels and cytoprotective efficacy may be increased through IL-17 blockade, but further research on this in human subjects is needed [68].

Although the therapeutic potential of IL-22 administration is promising, there are few clinical studies investigating its efficacy in PD. Phase 1 trials have shown recombinant

versions of IL-22 to be safe in humans [66,118]. In 2011, the phase 1 clinical study investigating the efficacy of a single dose ILV-095 on disease activity in patients with plaque PsO was terminated due to the inability to statistically evaluate its efficacy endpoints [119].

Medications targeting IL-23-mediated pathways have also been shown to be efficacious in the treatment of PD (Table 1). Currently, monoclonal antibodies targeting the p19 subunit of IL-23 (Tildrakizumab and Risankizumab) and the p40 subunit of IL-12 and IL-23 (Ustekinumab) are approved in the United States to treat both PsO and PsA. Although these medications have not been specifically studied in humans for the treatment of NAFLD and NASH, preliminary investigations in a mouse model showed that IL-23 blockade can prevent the development of NAFLD [120]. Treatment with ustekinumab in patients with PsO can lead to a significant reduction in levels of TNF-alpha, IL-17a, and IL-6 levels (Table 1) [121]. Ustekinumab has also been shown to be safe in patients with pre-existing liver disease and unlikely to cause liver injury likely [122]. Given that ustekinumab can decrease the levels of several cytokines important for the pathogenesis of NAFLD/NASH, it may be an effective treatment modality for both conditions but future investigations are needed.

IL-6 blockade studies have mixed results in PD. A RCT in 2016 showed that IL-6 blockade with clazukizumab in patients with active PsA and PsO led to statistically significant improvement in ACR20 on week 16 at the 100 mg dose [123]. Interestingly, ACR 20/50/70 scores in patients treated with either 25 mg or 200 mg doses of clazakizumab did not differ significantly when compared to placebo, indicating a lack of a dose-response to the drug (Table 1) [123]. A case series published in 2012 showed that treatment of PsA and PsO with tocilizumab for 6 months did not improve skin or joint symptoms [88]. Although IL-6 overexpression has been associated with PsA and demonstrated in synovial tissue samples, it may not play a central role in the pathogenesis of PsA synovitis [74]. This could explain why improvement in joint symptoms is not consistently demonstrated in PsA patients on IL-6 blockade [88].

IL-6 blockade in patients with PsO also has mixed results. Mease et al. showed that IL-6 blockade failed to improve skin symptoms in patients with active PsO and PsA and even worsened skin symptoms in one patient [123]. Interestingly, IL-6 blockade has been shown to induce PsO in select patients with rheumatoid arthritis [124,125]. One proposed theory for this is that IL-6 receptor blockade leads to a temporary elevation in serum IL-6 that stimulates other members of the IL-6 receptor family [126].

There is minimal data on the impact of IL-6 on NAFLD (Table 1). In the clazakizumab RCT trial described above, IL-6 blockade led to benign transaminase elevations. The highest dose (200 mg of clazakizumab) led to more patients with AST/ALT elevations more than three times the upper limit than any of the other dosages [123]. Until more research on the effect of IL-6 antagonism on the liver is done, IL-6 blockade should be used cautiously in patients with PD and NAFLD.

Apremilast, a phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor, is another approved treatment for PsO and PsA (Table 1). Although apremilast has not been formally studied in NAFLD, it has been shown to modify important NAFLD risk factors in animal models of the disease.

Phosphodiesterases are thought to contribute to the development of NAFLD through enzymatic degradation of hepatoprotective cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP). cAMP is a secondary messenger molecule that modulates inflammation and lipid metabolism by modifying gene/protein expression [127]. In a mouse model of obesity, increasing cAMP levels (by inhibiting phosphodiesterases) improved hepatic steatosis by inhibiting de novo lipogenesis and promoting mitochondrial biogenesis and fatty acid beta oxidation [128].

PDE4B knockout in mice decreased serum leptin and TNF-alpha levels, fat pad weights, and adipocyte size [129]. In rats, PDE4 inhibition upregulated GLP-1, an incretin important for glycemic control and weight loss [130]. Synthetic PDE4 inhibitors administered in multiple rodent models of hepatic disease resulted in decreases in aminotransferase levels, fibrosis scores, and histological evidence of inflammation [131].

Despite the promising findings in animal models, data from human studies show evidence of only NAFLD/NASH risk factor modification. In the PALACE-2 trial, a phase three randomized controlled trial, apremilast promoted weight loss in 15% of patients [132]. In Mazzili et al., 2020, apremilast administration decreased LDL-C and glucose levels in patients with PsO and PsA [133]. PDE4 inhibition seems to have little impact on disease markers of NASH/NAFLD in humans. ASP9831, a novel PDE4 inhibitor, did not improve any biochemical hepatic parameters in patients with a histological diagnosis of NASH [131]. PDE4-inhibition must be studied more carefully in humans before definitive conclusions regarding its efficacy in NAFLD/NASH can be drawn.

Abatacept, a cytotoxic-T-lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 (CTLA-4)-Ig human fusion protein, is an approved treatment for PsA, but has shown mixed effects on PsO (Table 1) [134]. Abatacept inhibits the CD-28 costimulatory signal needed to activate naive T cells. To date, no studies evaluating the potential use of abatacept in the treatment of NAFLD/NASH have been done. Preliminary studies in mice infected with *S. mansoni* cercariae showed CTLA4-Ig can attenuate fibrosis through suppression of pro-fibrotic genes and collagen deposition [135]. In a mouse model of graft versus host disease, CTLA4-Ig decreased colonic and lung fibrosis and transaminase elevations [136]. CTLA4-Ig could theoretically inhibit fibrosis— a key pathway in NASH, but specific studies evaluating Abatacept in models of NAFLD/NASH must be done.

Fumaric acid esters (FAE) including dimethyl fumarate (DMF) are approved to treat PsO, but have not yet been approved to treat PsA due to the paucity of supportive studies (Table 1) [137,138]. It is proposed that DMF and FAEs treat PsO by impairing keratinocyte proliferation and decreasing expression of vascular cell adhesion molecule 1 (VCAM-1), E-selectin, intercellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1), and IL-1  $\alpha$  [139-141].

Although FAEs have not been specifically studied in NAFLD/NASH, preliminary studies in other rodent models of hepatic injury are promising. In mouse and in vitro models of alcoholic liver disease, DMF decreased hepatic steatosis, hepatic immune cell infiltration, expression of multiple inflammatory cytokines, and production of reactive oxygen species [142,143]. In rat models of acetaminophen mediated hepatic injury and ischemia/reperfusion injury, DMF decreased hepatic injury and inflammation and increased levels of various

antioxidants [144,145]. Although FAEs are protective against hepatic injury in other rodent models of liver disease, studies on their impact on NAFLD/NASH are still needed [146].

### NAFLD treatments in PD

The PIVENS trial compared treatment with Vitamin E, pioglitazone, and placebo in non-diabetic patients with NASH and found Vitamin E to be superior to both pioglitazone and placebo in improving steatohepatitis (43% vs. 19%;  $p = 0.001$ ). Improvement in steatohepatitis with pioglitazone compared to placebo was 34% vs 19% ( $p = 0.04$ ), and secondary endpoints of steatosis, inflammation and hepatocellular ballooning were significantly improved. Pioglitazone was associated with improvements in insulin resistance but caused weight gain that was not reversed once the study ended [147].

A randomized, double blind, placebo controlled trial studied patients with diabetes or pre-diabetes and biopsy proven NASH. Every patient was recommended a low calorie diet and assigned to pioglitazone or a placebo for 18 months. 58% of patients taking pioglitazone had reduction in at least 2 points on the NAFLD activity score ( $p < 0.05$ ) and 51% had resolution of NASH ( $p < 0.05$ ). The pioglitazone group, similar to the PIVENS trial, also had greater weight gain (2.5 kg) than the placebo group. Overall, pioglitazone was found to be safe and effective for diabetic and pre-diabetic patients with NASH [148]. Pioglitazone has also been studied in PD and found to be an efficacious treatment for plaque psoriasis, leading to a significant decrease in mean PASI scores and increase in PASI-75 scores (Table 2) [149,150].

Given these limitations in current treatments for NAFLD, multiple studies are underway to assess the efficacy of new therapeutics. Promising medications in phase II and III of clinical trials for NAFLD/NASH include farnesoid X receptor (FXR) agonists, glucagon like peptide (GLP-1) agonists, fatty acid synthase/stearoyl-CoA desaturase (FASN/SCD1) inhibitors, and thyroid hormone receptor beta (THR-beta) agonists. These drugs fall into four main categories – metabolic targets such as those that improve insulin sensitivity or reduce lipogenesis, inflammatory pathway targets, bile acid modulation targets, and anti-fibrotic targets in the liver. Moreover, emerging therapeutics are also highlighting extra-hepatic benefits such as improving insulin resistance, hyperlipidemia and weight loss which may also impact diseases like PD [151].

Obeticholic acid, an FXR agonist, works via bile acid modulation and regulates lipid homeostasis and promotes insulin sensitivity. Compared to placebo, obeticholic acid demonstrated significant improvement in liver fibrosis in NASH patients in the REGENERATE trial (23% versus 12%;  $p = 0.0002$ ). GLP-1 agonists, such as liraglutide and semaglutide, are approved for the treatment of Type II Diabetes Mellitus and are currently being studied for NAFLD. Initial studies showed resolution of NASH in 39% of patients in the liraglutide group compared with 9% of patients in the placebo group ( $p < 0.001$ ). However, there was no statistically significant difference when adjusting for weight loss, suggesting the reduction in steatohepatitis may be all modulated by weight loss and not by the GLP-1 agonist itself (Table 2) [151].

A larger, Phase 2 clinical trial evaluating semaglutide demonstrated benefit compared to placebo for resolution of NASH. It also demonstrated a dose response relationship with those receiving higher doses of the semaglutide exhibiting higher rates of NASH resolution (59% vs 17%;  $p < 0.001$ ) [151]. Both FXR agonists and GLP-1 agonists may be beneficial in PD since they target pathways of insulin sensitivity and TNF-alpha/IL-6 mediated inflammation. A recent RCT of liraglutide administration in patients PsO and T2DM demonstrated a significant decrease in PASI scores after 12 weeks. In addition, these patients also showed decreased expression of IL-17, IL-23 and TNF-alpha on the skin biopsy (Table 2) [152].

SCD-1 inhibitors such as aramchol, a conjugate of a bile acid and fatty acid, are also being studied for their effects on reducing liver steatosis. A three month proof of concept trial found that aramchol has a dose-dependent effect on hepatic steatosis. A phase IIb clinical trial, however, showed no significant difference in NASH resolution compared to placebo (16.7% vs 5%;  $p = 0.051$ ) so an additional larger study is underway to further evaluate the drug's potential (Table 2) [151].

THR-beta is the major form of thyroid hormone receptor expressed in the liver. THR-beta is involved in hepatic triglyceride and cholesterol metabolism so THR-beta agonists like resmetirom should not only improve NAFLD but also have additional metabolic benefits. Phase IIb clinical trial showed relative reduction in liver fat compared to placebo (-36.3% vs -9.6%;  $p < 0.0001$ ) and higher rates of NASH resolution compared to placebo (27.4% vs 6.5%;  $p = 0.02$ ). In addition, resmetirom reduced LDL cholesterol by 22.3% and triglycerides by 30.8% compared to placebo ( $p < 0.0001$  for all lipids). In this way, THR-beta agonists may be potentially efficacious for PD by reducing triglycerides and inflammatory lipid pathways (Table 2) [151].

## Conclusion

It is clear that there is an increased prevalence of NAFLD in psoriatic disease patients which likely stems from a common pathway of disease and less likely as a consequence of treatment for PD. An understanding of the underlying pathophysiology of NAFLD in patients with PD can help guide treatment. Moreover, identifying targets in these common disease pathways could help guide research into drug targets of therapeutics that can treat both disease states simultaneously. Further studies investigating the impact of biologics on NAFLD and NAFLD therapeutics on PD are needed. We hypothesize that intervening in the pathogenesis of metabolic stress and inflammation as described in this review would be potentially successful to target both diseases. Current clinical trials for therapeutics such as GLP-1 agonists and THR-beta agonists seek to target these shared pathways of insulin resistance, lipid homeostasis and systemic inflammation, and may ultimately be beneficial therapies for patients with coexisting PD and NAFLD.

## Funding

RL receives funding support from NIEHS (5P42ES010337), NCATS (5UL1TR001442), NIDDK (U01DK061734, R01DK106419, P30DK120515, R01DK121378, R01DK124318), NHLBI (P01HL147835), and DOD PRCRP (W81XWH-18-2-0026). VA is supported by NIDDK (K23DK119460). MG receives funding support from NIAMS

(R01AR073324). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

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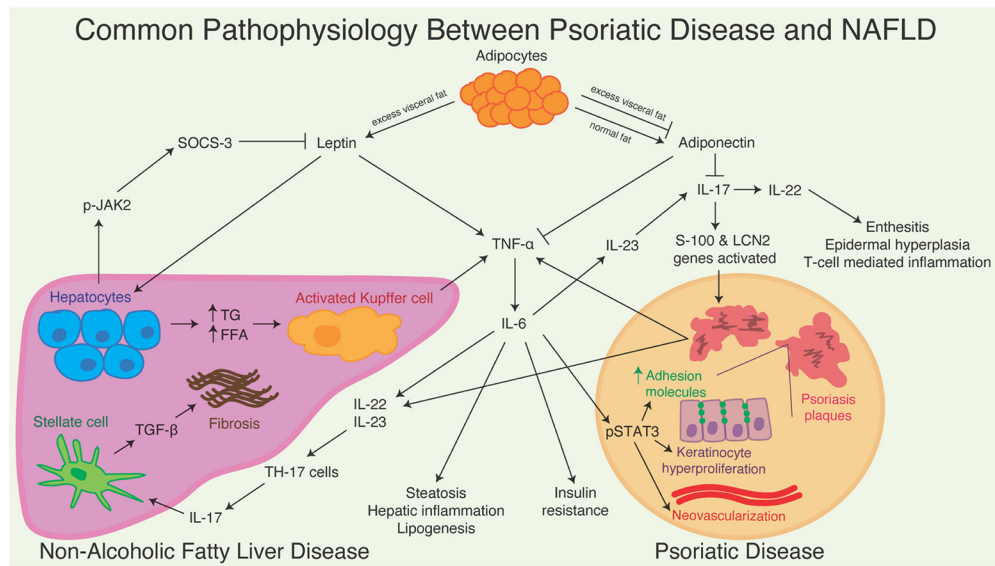


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**Fig. 1. Shared pathogenesis of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and psoriatic disease.**

The common pathophysiology between PD and NAFLD is primarily driven by adipokine and cytokine inflammatory pathways. Excess visceral fat increases leptin but paradoxically decreases adiponectin which leads to downstream inflammatory processes in both diseases. TNF-alpha and IL-6 are the predominant overlapping factors which ultimately influence IL-22, IL-23, IL-17, and other cytokines to promote inflammation, steatosis and lipogenesis in NAFLD while also promoting an increase in adhesion molecules, keratinocyte hyperproliferation and neovascularization in PD.

NAFLD: non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; PD: psoriatic disease; IL: interleukin; FFA: free fatty acid; TG: triglyceride; TNF: tumor necrosis factor.

Table 1

Psoriatic disease therapeutics and impact on NAFLD .

Drug name	Mechanism of Action	FDA Approval in PsO, PsA, or Both	Level of studies on NAFLD treatment	Potential effect on NA
<b>Ustekinumab</b> PsA: McInnes et al., 2013[153] Ritchlin et al., 2014[154]	Human IgG1k monoclonal antibody against p40 subunit of IL-12 and IL-23	Both	Hypothesis only; may theoretically interrupt pathogenesis	Treatment with ustekinumab led to a significant reduction in levels of TNF-alpha, IL-17a, and IL-6 levels in PsO patients inflammatory cytokines important for pathogenesis of NAFLD/ NASH[121].
<b>PsO:</b> Griffiths et al., 2010[155]; Kimball et al., 2012[156]; Tsai et al., 2011[157]; Papp et al., 2008[158]				
<b>Tildrakizumab</b> PsA: Mease et al., 2021[159]	Humanized IgG1k monoclonal antibody against p19 subunit of IL-23	PsO only	Animal studies	IL-23 blockade prevents NAFLD development in mouse model[120].
<b>PsO:</b> Papp et al., 2015[160]; Reich et al., 2017[161]; Blauvelt et al., 2018[162]; Reich et al., 2020[163]				
<b>Guselkumab</b> PsA: Mease et al., 2020[164]; Deodhar et al., 2018[165]	Humanized IgG1k monoclonal antibody against p19 subunit of IL-23	Both	Animal studies	See above[120].
<b>PsO:</b> Langley et al., 2018[166]; Reich et al., 2017[161]; Blauvelt et al., 2017[167]; Gordon et al., 2015[168]				
<b>Risankizumab</b> PsA: Ostor et al., 2022[169]; Kristensen et al., 2021[170] PsO: Papp et al., 2017[171]; Papp et al., 2021[172]; Blauvelt et al., 2020[173]	Humanized IgG1k monoclonal antibody against p19 subunit of IL-23	Both	Animal studies	See above[120].
<b>Ixekizumab</b> PsA: Mease et al., 2017[174]; Nash et al., 2017[175]; Mease et al., 2020[176]	Humanized monoclonal IgG4 antibody against IL-17A	Both	Animal studies	In mouse models of NAFLD and NASH, IL-17 blockade decreases hepatic steatosis and hepatic infiltration of inflammatory cells[68,178].
<b>PsO:</b> Griffiths et al., 2015[177]; Blauvelt et al., 2020[173]				
<b>Secukinumab</b> PsA: McInnes et al., 2015[179]; Mease et al., 2015[180]	Human IgG1k monoclonal antibody against IL-17A	Both	Animal studies	See above[68,178].
<b>PsO:</b> Langley et al., 2014[181]; Thaci et al., 2015[182]; Mease et al., 2015[180]; Blauvelt et al., 2016[183]				
<b>Brodalumab</b> PsA: Mease et al., 2014[184]; Mease et al., 2021[185] PsO: Papp et al., 2016[186]; Lebwohl et al., 2015[187]	Human IgG2 monoclonal antibody against IL-17RA	PsO only	Animal studies	IL-17A blockade in NASH—HCC mouse model led to decreased tumor size and number of nodules[189].
<b>Both:</b> Nakagawa et al., 2016[188]				IL-17A blockade in mouse model decreased the amount of liver injury induced by high fat diet[65].
<b>Infliximab</b> PsA: Antoni et al., 2005[190-191]; Kavanaugh et al., 2006[192]	Chimeric monoclonal antibody against TNF-α	Both	Human and animal studies	Infliximab administration shown to reduce inflammation, steatosis, insulin resistance, and

Drug name	Mechanism of Action	FDA Approval in PsO, PsA, or Both	Level of studies on NAFLD treatment	Potential effect on NA
<b>PsO:</b> Menter et al., 2007[193]; Reich et al., 2013[194]; Barker et al., 2011[195]; Chaudhari et al., 2001[196]				fibrosis induced from high fat diet[107-109]. Cross-sectional study showed that TNF-alpha inhibitors may protect against development of fibrosis in patients with PsA[111].
<b>Adalimumab</b> <b>PsA:</b> Mease et al., 2005[197]; Genovese et al., 2007[198]; Gladman et al., 2007[199]	Human IgG1k monoclonal antibody against TNF-α	Both	Human and animal studies	In a rat model of NASH, adalimumab did not prevent NASH but did improve some LFTs and NASH histopathology scores[110].
<b>PsO:</b> Saurat et al., 2008[200]; Menter et al., 2008[201]; Gordon et al., 2012[202]		Both		See above [11].
<b>Certolizumab</b> <b>PsA:</b> Mease et al., 2014[203]; Gladman et al., 2014[204] <b>PsO:</b> Reich et al., 2012[205]	Pegylated Fab fragment of a human monoclonal antibody against TNF-α		Hypothesis only; efficacy of other TNF-α inhibitors on NAFLD	Not specifically studied in NAFLD/NASH but operates via a similar mechanism as Infliximab and Adalimumab which have been shown to be effective in animal models[111,207].
<b>Both:</b> Dattola et al., 2017[206]				
<b>Golimumab</b> <b>PsA:</b> Kavanaugh et al., 2009[208]	Human IgG1k monoclonal antibody against TNF-α	PsA only	Hypothesis; efficacy of other TNF-α inhibitors on NAFLD	See above[111,207]
<b>Etanercept</b> <b>PsA:</b> Mease et al., 2004[209]; Mease et al., 2010[210] <b>PsO:</b> Gordon et al., 2006[211]; Leonard et al., 2003[212]	Dimeric p55 TNF-R-Fc construct	Both	Human studies	Etanercept decreased odds of developing hepatic fibrosis in patients with PsO and NAFLD[112].
<b>Both:</b> Mease et al., 2000[213]				
<b>Clazakizumab</b> <b>Both:</b> Mease et al., 2016 [123]	Humanized IgG1 monoclonal antibody against IL-6	Neither	Hypothesis only; may theoretically interrupt pathogenesis	IL-6 promotes the IL-23/IL-17 pathway by inducing differentiation of CD4+ cells into Th17 cells[84].
No recombinant IL-22 cytokine is currently utilized in PD	Human IL-22-Fc fusion protein	Neither	Animal studies	Therapeutic administration of IL-22 in murine models improves insulin resistance and hepatic steatosis[115,116].
<b>Abatacept</b> <b>PsA:</b> Mease et al., 2017[214]; Szentpetery et al., 2017[215] <b>PsO:</b> Abrams et al., 1999[216]; Abrams et al., 2000[217] <b>Both:</b> Mease et al., 2020[218]	Human cytotoxic-T-lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 (CTLA-4)-Ig fusion protein	PsA only	No data	
<b>Methotrexate</b> <b>PsA:</b> Coates et al., 2016[219]	Inhibition of dihydrofolate reductase	PsO only; often used off-label for PsA	No data	MTX may independently contribute to the development of NAFLD[221-223].
<b>PsO:</b> Saurat et al., 2011[220]; Coates et al., 2016[219]				
<b>Cyclosporine</b> <b>PsO:</b> Ellis et al., 1991[224]; Ho et al., 2001[225]; Faerber et al., 2001[226]	Inhibition of calcineurin	PsO only	Hypothesis; may theoretically interrupt pathogenesis	CsA and non-immunosuppressive cyclophilin analogs can decrease fibrosis and mitochondrial dysfunction—two process important for NASH/NAFLD development[227].

Drug name	Mechanism of Action	FDA Approval in PsO, PsA, or Both	Level of studies on NAFLD treatment	Potential effect on NA
<b>Acitretin</b> <u>PsO</u> : Geiger et al., 2003[228]; Murray et al., 1991[229]	Cytosolic retinoic acid-binding protein (CRABP)	PsO only	Hypothesis; risk factor modification and may theoretically interrupt pathogenesis	Acitretin treatment in patients with PsO improved insulin resistance[230]. Acitretin + MTX treatment in PsO yielded decreased risk of fibrosis when compared with MTX monotherapy[231].
<b>Apremilast</b> <u>PsA</u> : Kavanaugh et al., 2015[232]; Kavanaugh et al., 2019[233] <u>PsO</u> : Papp et al., 2015[160]; Rich et al., 2015[234]	Inhibition of phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor	Both	Human studies	ASP9831 (novel PDE4- inhibitor) did not improve any biochemical hepatic parameters in patients with a histological diagnosis of NASH[131].
<b>Lellunomide</b> <u>PsA</u> : Dai et al., 2019[235]; Behrens et al., 2013[236] <u>PsO</u> : Tlacuilo-Parra et al., 2004[237]	Inhibition of dihydro-orotate dehydrogenase	Neither	No data	
<b>Both</b> : Kaltwasser et al., 2004[238]; Nash et al., 2006[239]				
<b>Dimethyl Fumarate</b> <u>PsO</u> : Mrowietz et al., 2017[138]; Lijnen et al., 2016[240]; va de Kerkhof et al., 2020[241]	Augmentation of nuclear factor erythroid 2 related factor 2 (Nrf2) pathway and inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B pathway	PsO only	No data	



**Table 2**

## NAFLD/NASH Therapeutics and Impact on PD.

<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Mechanism of Action</b>	<b>Level of studies on PD treatment</b>	<b>Findings in PD</b>
<b>Pioglitazone</b> Sanyal et al., 2010[147]; Belfort et al., 2006[242]; Aithal et al., 2008[243]; Cusi et al., 2016[148]; Musso et al., 2017[244]	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPAR)-gamma agonists	Human studies	Meta-analysis: Pioglitazone is an efficacious treatment modality for plaque psoriasis [150]. Meta-analysis: Pioglitazone administration leads to a significant decrease in mean PASI scores and increase in PASI-75 scores[149].
<b>Resmetiron</b> Harrison et al., 2019 [245] Vuppalanchi et al., 2021[151]	Thyroid hormone receptor beta (THR-beta) selective agonist	Not studied in PD	
<b>Obeticholic Acid</b> Vuppalanchi et al., 2021[151]; Mudaliar et al., 2013[246]; Neuschwander-Tetri et al., 2015[247]; Younossi et al., 2019 [248]	Farnesoid X Receptor (FXR) Agonist	Not studied in PD	
<b>Liraglutide, Semaglutide</b> Vuppalanchi et al., 2021 [151]; Armstrong et al., 2013[249]; Armstrong et al., 2016 [250]; Mantovani et al., 2021 [251]	Glucagon Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Analog	Human studies	Liraglutide administration in patients PsO and T2DM lead to a significant decrease in PASI scores after 12 weeks[152]
<b>Vitamin E</b> Sanyal et al., 2010[147]; Hoofnagle et al., 2013[252]	Antioxidant	Human studies	In patients with PsA and severe erythrodermic psoriasis, Vitamin E, in combination with Coenzyme Q10 and selenium, showed improvements in reactive oxygen species compared to placebo[253].
<b>Aramchol</b> Vuppalanchi et al., 2021[151]	Fatty Acid Synthase Stearoyl-CoA Desaturase (FASN/SCD1) inhibitors	Not studied in PD	
<b>Pentoxifylline</b> Zein et al., 2011[254] Van Wagner et al., 2011[255] Du et al., 2014[256]	Phosphodiesterase inhibitor	Human studies	No clinical or histological improvement noted with pentoxifylline treatment[257].