**Biologics AND Biosimilars**

Do Physicians Understand the Differences?

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**INTRODUCTION**

Biologic medicines, such as botulinum toxins and monoclonal antibodies, are important therapies in many different medical specialties. Biosimilar medicines, which are similar, but not identical, to original innovator biologics, have been approved in many countries. Structural differences in biosimilars compared to innovator biologics may produce significantly different dosing, adverse effects, and immunogenicity. Physicians around the world must understand that biosimilar medicines are not simply generic alternatives to innovator biologics.

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**STUDY OBJECTIVE**

To determine whether there are differences in physicians' understanding of biologic and biosimilar medicines in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe.

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**METHODS**

Physicians in the U.S. (n=376), Latin America (n=399), and in Europe (n=470) completed a web-based survey.

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**RESULTS**

*Critically important understanding of biologics and biosimilars*

**CONCLUSIONS**

European physicians appear to have a more accurate understanding of the differences between biologic and biosimilar medicines compared to U.S. and Latin American physicians.

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**FUTURE EFFORTS**

- Biologic medicines must have distinct names to minimize prescriber confusion.
- Educational initiatives should seek to inform physicians, patients, and pharmacists of the differences between biologics and biosimilars.

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