



ISSUE 5 | 15/12/2023

**SITE COUNT**

**OPEN: 35**  
**IN SET UP: 18**  
**DUE SET UP: 3**

**RECRUITMENT**

**COUNT: 689**

As we draw to the end of 2023, we would like to thank all of the A-STAR team members for their tremendous work over the past year. We look forward to working with you and carrying this on into 2024 and beyond. The A-STAR team would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and best wishes for a prosperous 2024!

## LAB CLOSURE

The A-STAR labs will be closed over the Christmas & New Year's period and so our team will not be able to confirm receipt of samples until **Tuesday 2nd January 2024**. However, you can carry on recruitment and sample shipments as usual for your A-STAR participants. Please follow the normal shipment procedure and send the ambient DNA samples collected to the St John's Institute of Dermatology Labs on the day of collection. The ambient DNA blood tubes and a copy of the completed sample slip should be placed in a Royal Mail SafeBox. All blood collection tubes should be labelled with the A-STAR ID and visit date.

## A-STAR AT EADV

In October, we presented a comparative analysis pitching ciclosporin and methotrexate against dupilumab with regard to treatment effectiveness, safety and quality of life impact at the European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology (EADV) congress in Berlin. This real-world comparison of dupilumab, CyA and MTX in AD suggests that dupilumab and CyA are more effective than MTX, particularly in very severe disease (EASI, POEM, PP-NRS, QoL scores). It is important to remember that the majority of patients on dupilumab will have received treatment with a first-line conventional systemic, such as CyA and MTX prior to dupilumab, and therefore have partially treated disease with less potential for improvement compared to the MTX and CyA subjects. There were no surprises with regard to the adverse event profiles of the respective drugs and no serious adverse events related to any of the medications. Further real-world studies are needed to validate the findings, also comparing dupilumab with other novel biologics and Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors, something that we are planning as a future A-STAR analysis.



## KEY STATISTICS

