

# Biosimilar Benefit Use, Adoption, and Conversions

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## Background

- Biosimilars help control costs and increase access to biologic specialty-drugs.
- Marketed US biosimilars are available for the following innovator (reference) products: infliximab, filgrastim, pegfilgrastim, bevacizumab, trastuzumab, rituximab, epoetin alfa.

## Objective

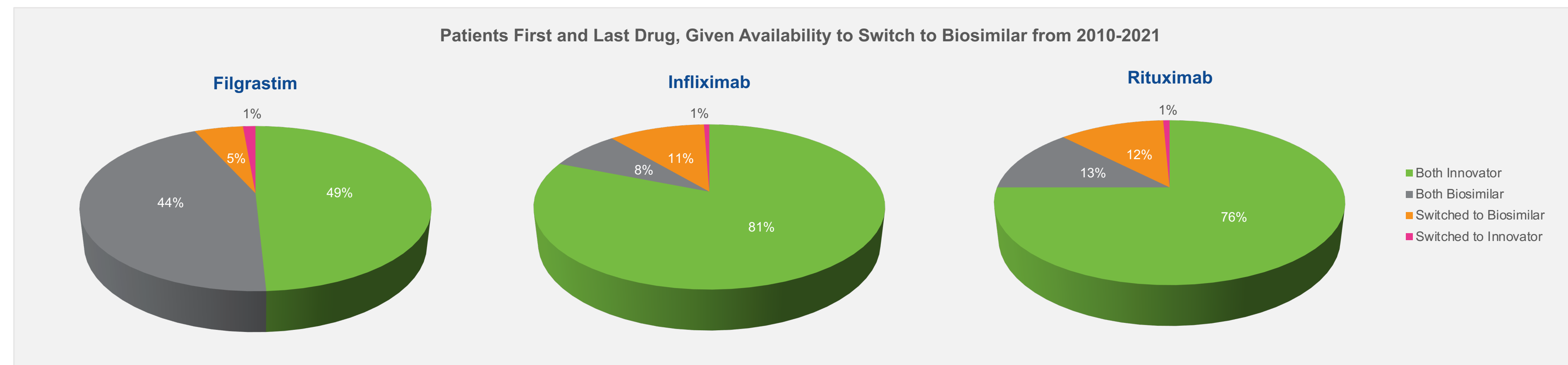
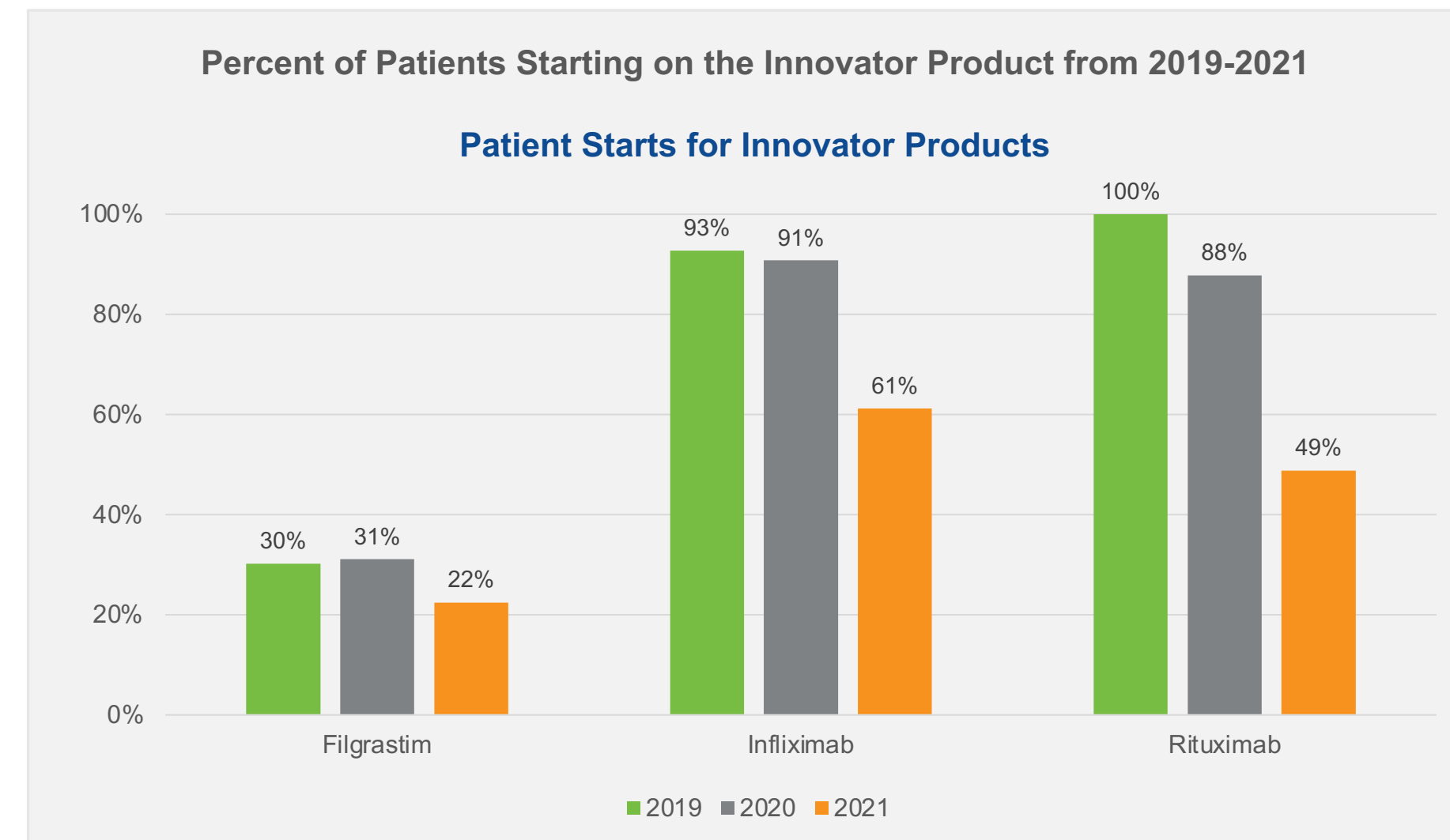
- Use objective data to examine the growth of specialty-drugs, biosimilar use, and coverage benefits.

## Methods

- US beneficiaries within the Workpartners (formerly known as HCMS) Research Reference Database (RRDb) from 2010-2021.
- Workpartners RRDb contains:
  - Medical and pharmaceutical claims for over 3 million employees and dependents (about 5.6 million total lives) from multiple US private sector employers in the medical, retail, service, manufacturing, transportation, energy, technology, financial, and utility industries.
  - Enhanced employee demographics (including self-reported race).
  - Job-related employee information (salary, job type, full/part-time status, exempt/non-exempt status).
  - Employees in all states.
  - Claims with absence durations and payments for employee populations eligible for STD=540k, LTD=21k, WC=630k, SL=12.3 million.
- The Workpartners RRDb has (also) been used for research on:
  - The impact of conditions and therapies on patients,<sup>1</sup> employees,<sup>2-8</sup> and caregivers.<sup>9-11</sup>
  - Specialty pharmacy-managed conditions such as hepatitis-C,<sup>2,3</sup> multiple sclerosis,<sup>4,5</sup> acromegaly,<sup>1,6</sup> and rheumatoid arthritis.<sup>7,8</sup>
  - The impact of COVID-19 on claims utilization and absence.
  - Optimal Benefit Design.
  - Risk-adjusted benchmarks (Workpartners' HUI - Health Utilization Index).
  - Predictive modeling for mental health and avoidable emergency department claims.
- Annual claims and dollars for specialty agents were classified as:
  - Innovator (reference) agents or biosimilars.
  - Benefit used (prescription or medical).
  - Claims and costs were compared per year among innovator and biosimilar products.

## Results

- In 2021, patient starts for innovator products demonstrate significant erosion compared to prior years due to lower cost of biosimilars.
- Since 2010, patients largely remain on initial drug (innovator or biosimilar) regardless of biosimilar availability.



- Most claims in 2021 were processed through patients' medical benefits with biosimilars often dispensed at half the cost of innovator products.

**Comparison on Claims and Cost for 2021**

Originator	Biosimilar	% Claims on Medical Benefit	% Cost of Innovator
Filgrastim	Filgrastim	84%	-
	Filgrastim-aafi	65%	29%
	Filgrastim-sndz	87%	56%
Infliximab	Infliximab	94%	-
	Infliximab-axxq	100%	59%
	Infliximab-dyyb	83%	80%
Rituximab	Infliximab-abda	96%	50%
	Rituximab	98%	-
	Rituximab-arrx	100%	49%
	Rituximab-pvvr	99%	67%
	Rituximab-abbs	99%	75%

## Conclusions

- Health plans have recognized the value/savings and increased the use of biosimilars.
- Adoption of biosimilars is increasing and price for the biosimilars erodes as more options become available.
- Future analysis should focus on individual biologics (innovator/biosimilar pairs) and explore whether the findings vary by therapeutic area, agent, insurance plan, and/or region of the country.

## References

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