



Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

Agent	Abbrev	Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)	Psoriasis	Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)
Adalimumab (Humira)	ADA	Adults with moderately to severely active RA	Adults with chronic moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy	Active PsA in adults
Certolizumab (Cimzia)	CZP	Adults with moderately to severely active RA		
Etanercept (Enbrel)	ETN	Adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis	Adults with chronic moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy	Active PsA in adults, alone or in combination with MTX
Golimumab (Simponi)	GLM	Adults with moderately to severely active RA, in combination with MTX		Active PsA in adults, alone or in combination with MTX
Infliximab (Remicade)	IFX	Adults with moderately to severely active RA, in combination with MTX	Adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and /or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate	Active PsA in adults
Ustekinumab (Stelara)	UST		Adult patients (18 or older) with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for phototherapy or systemic therapy	Active PsA in adults

Michael E. Stuart MD
Sheri Ann Strite

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HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

Synthesized scientific information is presented with increasing level of detail.

- **Executive Summary Conclusions:** Highlights of evidentiary findings
- **Details of Evidence Findings:** Further details

Critical appraisals of individual studies and detailed search documentation are produced in appendices below titled—

- **Safety of Selected Agents: Search Documentation**
- **Safety of Selected Agents: Critical Appraisal Documentation**

Because this review addresses safety, research at high-risk of bias, such as evidence from observational studies and registries, is included along with higher quality evidence from clinical trials, systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials. Important issues concerning risk of bias in registries is included in the **Appendices** under **General Risk of Bias Considerations for Registries**.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Other abbreviations, with their explanations, are found, at times in individual critical appraisals and study reviews.

Table 1. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ADA	Adalimumab (Humira)
AE	Adverse event
AERS	Adverse Event Reporting System of the US Food and Drug Administration
AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
Anti-TNF agents	Agents targeting tumor necrosis factor (TNF). TNF promotes the inflammatory response which is thought to be causally related to clinical conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. See related terms "anti-TNF mAb, TNF, TNFa, TNFI."
anti-TNF mAb	Anti-tumor necrosis factor monoclonal antibody. This specific term applies to agents that both target TNF and are monoclonal antibodies. See related more general terms "Anti-TNF agents, TNF, TNFa, TNFI."
ARR	Absolute risk reduction
AS	Ankylosing spondylitis
BIW	Twice weekly
BSRBR	British Society of Rheumatology Biologics Register
CD	Crohn's disease
CI	Confidence interval
CLTR	Cumulative lifetime risk
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
CZP	Certolizumab (Cimzia)
DMARD	Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug
EHCP	Effective Health Care Program
ERA	Early rheumatoid arthritis
ETN	Etanercept (Enbrel)
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration
GLM	Golimumab (Simponi)
GVHD	Graft versus host disease
HR	Hazard ratio
I^2	Inconsistency statistic: The I^2 statistic is a test of heterogeneity. The range of I^2 values is between 0% and 100%. I^2 provides an estimate of the percentage of variability in results across studies that is likely due to true differences in treatment effect as opposed to chance. When the I^2 is 0%, chance provides a satisfactory explanation for the variability in the individual study point estimates, and clinicians can be comfortable with a single pooled estimate of treatment effect in a valid study. As the I^2 increases, bias becomes more likely. A rule of thumb characterizes an I^2 of less than 25% as small heterogeneity, 25% to 50% as moderate and more than 50% as large heterogeneity.
IFI	Invasive fungal infection
IFX	Infliximab (Remicade)
IR	Incidence rate: the number of events divided by the person-time at risk.
IRR	Incidence rate ratio is the ratio of two incidence rates. The incidence rate is defined as number of events divided by the person-time at risk. To calculate the IRR, the incidence rate among the exposed proportion of the population, divided by the incidence rate in the unexposed portion of the population, gives a relative measure (IRR) of the effect of a given exposure and approximates the relative risk or the odds ratio if the occurrences are rare.

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Abbreviation	Definition
JIA	Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
LOE	Level of evidence
LRA	Long-standing RA
MS	Multiple sclerosis
NNH	Number-needed-to-harm
NNT	Number-needed-to-treat
NR	Not reported
NS	Not significant
OI	Opportunistic infection
ON	Optic neuritis
OR	Odds ratio
PCP	Pneumocystis pneumonia
PMID	The PMID (PubMed identifier or PubMed unique identifier) is a unique number assigned to each PubMed citation of life sciences and biomedical scientific journal articles. Full citations can be retrieved from PubMed by entering the PMID number into the search window.
PsA	Psoriatic arthritis
PY	Patient-years
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RATIO	Research Axed on Tolerance of Biotherapies
RR	Relative risk
RRR	Relative risk reduction
SAE	Serious adverse event
SEER database	US National Cancer Institute SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results) database
SIR	Standardized incident ratio: the ratio of observed occurrences to expected occurrences. Expected occurrences for SIR calculations are based on selected data sources e.g., the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database. For example, a SIR of 150 is interpreted as 50% more cases than the expected number; a SIR of 90 indicates 10% fewer cases than expected.
SMR	Standardized mortality ratio: the ratio of observed deaths to expected deaths calculated using the expected rates (e.g., based on country-specific age and sex matched general population data from the World Health Organization).
SR	Systematic review
TNF	Tumor necrosis factor is a class of cytokines (molecules secreted by the immune system). TNF is frequently used to refer to TNF-alpha, a member of this class that is involved in the inflammatory response. See related terms "anti-TNF agents, TNF, anti-TNF mAb, TNFa and TNFI."
TNFa	Shortened version of TNF-alpha (see TNF)
TNFI	Tumor necrosis factor inhibitor. Synonym for "anti-TNF agent" and "TNFI."
USPSTF	United States Preventive Services Task Force
UST	Ustekinumab (Stelara)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. BACKGROUND

Optimal management of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis has increasingly included the use of biologic agents for therapeutic success. New agents have recently become available and recent evidence has prompted earlier institution of biologic agents. (Smolen 10). With the increasing use of these agents, it is important to review the relative safety of the available agents.

2. AIM

The aim of this project is to systematically review, critically appraise and analyze research evidence regarding the comparative safety of selected agents used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Specifically, this project systematically reviews safety outcomes for the following agents commonly used in the conditions below—

Condition	Abbrev	adalimumab (Humira) ADA	certolizumab pegol (Cimzia) CZP	etanercept (Enbrel) ETN	golimumab (Simponi) GLM	infliximab (Remicade) IFX	ustekinumab (Stelara) UST
Active rheumatoid arthritis	RA	x	x	x	x	x	
Psoriasis		x		x		x	x
Active psoriatic arthritis	PsA	x		x	x	x	x

3. KEY QUESTION

What is the evidence regarding the comparative safety of the following antirheumatic agents as used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis?

1. adalimumab (Humira) (ADA)
2. certolizumab pegol (Cimzia) (CZP)
3. etanercept (Enbrel) (ETN)
4. golimumab (Simponi) (GLM)
5. infliximab (Remicade) (IFX)
6. ustekinumab (Stelara) (UST)

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4. CONCLUSIONS

Comparative safety of the various antirheumatic agents is complicated by the lack of head-to-head studies, relatively small study size and substantial heterogeneity in the study populations, study designs and multiple other contextual differences. For example, there are differences in disease activity, previous and concomitant treatments, co-interventions, study settings and study duration. In some cases, there may be differences between agents that are not apparent because of the relative rarity of adverse events and lack of power to determine true differences. However, certain compelling patterns emerge. Table 2 reflects our estimates of risk and risk differences for the agents of interest based on this review. The estimates are based on patterns of safety data from clinical trials and observational studies. The estimates should be seen as tentative and suggestive of differences because of the methodological limitations mentioned above. Additional studies are needed in order to draw firm comparative safety conclusions.

We conclude that patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with ETN compared to ADA and IFX are at lower risk for serious infections, tuberculosis, opportunistic infections and lymphoma. There is somewhat weaker evidence that patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX may be at lower risk for serious infections than those receiving CZP. We found consistent evidence from RCTs and observational data that patients receiving ETN are at lower risk for withdrawals from clinical trials due to adverse events than patients receiving ADA and IFX, but there are substantial differences in estimates of effect. There is inconclusive evidence from RCTs that patients receiving ADA and GLM may be at lower risk for withdrawal from clinical trials than patients receiving IFX.

Table 2. Comparative Safety Estimates From Evidence Review of The Agents of Interest

Safety Issue	The evidence is suggestive that...
Serious Infections in RA	<p>ETN compared to the pooled risk for the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA</p> <p><i>Estimated risk difference: between 1 and 2 fewer serious infections per 100 patients treated with ETN treatment for 3 to 12 months than with the monoclonal antibodies.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated risk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFX: 3.9 to 4.6 serious infections/100 pt-years; • ADA: 3.8 to 4.3 serious infections/100 pt-years • ETN: 2.6 to 3.8 serious infections/100 pt-years.
Serious Infections in RA	<p>ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX compared to CZP</p> <p><i>Estimated risk difference: between 4 and 6 fewer serious infections per 100 patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM or IFX for 6 to 12 months than with CZP.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated risk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CZP: 8.6 serious infections/100 patients treated for 6 months • ADA: 2.9 serious infections/100 patients treated for 6 months to 4.3 serious infections/100 pt-years • ETN: 2.5 to 3.8 serious infections/100 pt-years • GLM: 3.3 serious infections/100 patients treated for 6 months • IFX: 3.7 to 3.9 serious infections/100 pt-years
Tuberculosis in Studied Populations	<p>ETN compared to the pooled risk for the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA</p> <p><i>Estimated risk difference: 1 less case of tuberculosis per 1000 patient-years with ETN treatment than with the monoclonal antibodies.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated risk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFX: 1.4 TB cases/1000 pt-years • ADA: 1.4 TB cases/1000 pt-years • ETN: 0.4 TB cases/1000 pt-years.
Non-TB Opportunistic Infections in Studied Populations	<p>ETN compared to the pooled risk for the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA</p> <p><i>Estimated risk difference: 1 less case of opportunistic infection per 1000 patient-years with ETN treatment than with the monoclonal antibodies.</i></p>

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	<p><i>Estimated risk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFX: 2.9 opportunistic infections /1000 pt-years • ADA 0.61 opportunistic infections/1000 pt-years • ETN: 0.07 opportunistic infections/1000 pt-years
Lymphoma in Studied Populations	<p>ETN compared to the pooled risk for the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA</p> <p><i>Estimated risk difference: 1 less case of lymphoma per 1000 patient-years with ETN treatment than with the monoclonal antibodies.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated risk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFX and ADA: 0.62 to 2.91 lymphomas/1000 pt-years • ETN: 0.07 lymphomas/1000 pt-years
Withdrawals and Withdrawals due to Adverse Events in RA	<p>ETN compared to ADA and IFX</p> <p><i>Estimated risk difference in withdrawal rates is 2 fewer withdrawals per 100 patients per year with ETN compared to ADA and 6 fewer withdrawals per 100 patients per year compared to IFX.</i></p>
Serious Infections in Psoriasis or PsA	Insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of the five agents (ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX, UST)
Malignancy in RA, Psoriasis and PsA	Insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of the agents; The evidence suggests that RA patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX are not at increased risk for mortality compared to patients taking synthetic DMARDs.
Mortality in RA, Psoriasis and PsA	Insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of the agents
Demyelinating Disease in RA, Psoriasis and PsA	Insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of the agents
Infusion Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 18% of RA patients treated with IFX will experience an infusion reaction. Most will be mild (e.g., headache, dizziness, nausea, pruritus, chills, or fever). • However, severe acute reactions resembling acute anaphylactic conditions or associated with convulsions have been reported in 0.5% to 3.7% of patients receiving IFX.
Injection Site Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETN range 8.5% to 36.3% • ADA range 5.2% to 27.9% • UST range <1% to 25% • GLM range 5% to 20% • CZP range 1.6% to 4.5%

:: END OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ::

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5. EVIDENCE GRADING

Safety outcomes from all included primary and secondary studies were assessed for validity and clinical meaningfulness. Individual studies were evaluated for quality, and the body of evidence was rated for overall quality of the evidence using a modified version of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Effective Health Care Program (AHRQ-EHCP) system as summarized below (Owens 09). All included studies were rated as of uncertain validity and clinical usefulness for safety.

AHRQ-EHCP System, Delfini Modified—Overall Evidence Quality

Overall quality of the safety findings was rated by using a version of the quality assessment system developed by the **AHRQ-EHCP** group and modified by Delfini.

AHRQ-EHCP System Overall Evidence Quality	AHRQ-EHCP System, Delfini Modified—Overall Evidence Quality
High: High confidence that the evidence reflects the true effect. Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.	High: Same as AHRQ
Moderate: Moderate confidence that the evidence reflects the true effect. Further research may change our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.	Moderate: Same as AHRQ
Low: Low confidence that the evidence reflects the true effect. Further research is likely to change the confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.	Borderline*: The evidence may be reliable enough to be useful in informing decisions but caution is urged and further evidence is needed.
Insufficient: Evidence either is unavailable or does not permit a conclusion.	Inconclusive**: The evidence may be absent, conflicting, sparse, or weak and conclusions based on evidence cannot be drawn.

*For this review, we modified the AHRQ-EHCP grading system for overall LOE by changing AHRQ'S fourth category of "low" to "borderline" to increase clarity as we believe "moderate" and "low" are not precise enough to address evidence of borderline usefulness.

**We substituted the term "inconclusive" for the AHRQ term "insufficient" because we believe "inconclusive" is a better summary term when the evidence does not permit a conclusion, i.e. is absent, conflicting, sparse, or weak.

Critical appraisals of individual studies and search documentation are produced in two appendices below titled—

- **Safety of Selected Agents: Search Documentation**
- **Safety of Selected Agents: Critical Appraisal Documentation.**

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6. EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

This review includes evidence generated after the original pivotal trials were completed. It should be noted that the pivotal trials of the agents were designed to show statistically significant differences in efficacy outcomes—not safety outcomes. Therefore, it is important to note that the pivotal trials included in the meta-analyses summarized below were not powered to detect statistically significant differences in outcomes such as serious infections, malignancies, lymphomas, withdrawals and other adverse events included in this review.

6a. SERIOUS INFECTIONS, TUBERCULOSIS (TB) AND NON-TB OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS

Serious Infections, TB and Non-TB Opportunistic Infections in Patients Receiving IFX, ADA or ETN

The evidence from randomized, controlled trials (RCTs) and observational studies is sufficient to conclude that, in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients treated with the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA, there is an increased risk of serious infections compared to patients treated with ETN or placebo with or without traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) (LOE: borderline).

Although inconclusive, evidence from RCTs suggests that CZP is associated with a higher risk of serious infections when compared to ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX. Larger, high quality studies with longer follow-up are needed to more fully assess the relative safety of these agents compared to other antirheumatic agents (LOE: inconclusive).

The evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies is sufficient to conclude that the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA are associated with an increased risk of developing or reactivating TB compared to ETN or placebo with or without traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in patients being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and possibly other conditions (LOE: borderline).

Weak signals suggest that there may be an increased risk for developing or reactivating TB in RA patients receiving GLM, CZP or UST compared to patients receiving traditional DMARDs and placebo. However, larger, high quality studies with longer follow-up are needed in order to confirm these findings and assess the comparative safety of these agents compared to other antirheumatic agents (LOE: inconclusive).

There are potential weak signals from observational studies suggesting that the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA are associated with an increased risk of non-TB opportunistic infections compared to the soluble TNF receptor therapy ETN in some populations (LOE: inconclusive).

The evidence is insufficient to determine the relative risk of serious infections with GLM, CZP and UST compared to each other and to other antirheumatics agents in the treatment of RA, psoriasis and PsA. There are potential weak signals from randomized, controlled trials of increased risk of serious infection in RA and PsA patients treated with GLM, CZP and UST compared to patients treated with traditional DMARDs or placebo, but larger, high quality studies with longer follow-up are needed in order to confirm these findings and assess the risk of TB, fungal infections and other non-TB opportunistic infections (LOE: inconclusive).

6b. MALIGNANCY AND LYMPHOMA

Malignancy

The evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies is insufficient to determine the relative risks of malignancies in patients with RA, psoriasis or PsA receiving the agents included in this review (ADA, CZP, ETN, IFX, GLM, UST) (LOE: inconclusive).

Malignancy rates in patients receiving IFX, ADA and ETN are not statistically higher than in RA patients treated with placebo with or without MTX or than in the general population (LOE: borderline).

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There is insufficient evidence to determine the risk of malignancy in patients with RA receiving CZP or GLM compared to each other and other agents (LOE: inconclusive).

There is insufficient evidence to determine the risk of malignancy in patients with psoriasis or PsA receiving UST compared with each other and to other antirheumatic agents (LOE: inconclusive).

Lymphoma

There is insufficient evidence from RCTs to determine the relative risk of lymphoma in RA patients treated with IFX, ADA and ETN. However evidence from a recently published French registry study (Mariette 10) suggests that the risk of lymphoma in patients treated with IFX or ADA for any indication may be greater than in patients treated with ETN (LOE: inconclusive).

There is insufficient evidence to determine the risk of lymphoma in RA patients, psoriasis patients or patients with PsA receiving GLM, CZP or UST compared to each other and to other antirheumatic agents. (LOE: inconclusive).

There is insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of lymphoma in patients with psoriasis or PsA treated with any of the agents of interest (LOE: inconclusive).

6c. WITHDRAWALS AND WITHDRAWALS DUE TO ADVERSE EVENTS

Withdrawals Due To Adverse Events in Patients with RA, Psoriasis And Patients Receiving IFX, ADA, ETN, GLM, CZP or UST

The evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies is sufficient to suggest that RA patients receiving the monoclonal antibodies IFX or ADA are at increased risk of withdrawing from clinical trials due to adverse events or other reasons compared to patients receiving ETN or placebo with or without synthetic DMARDs (LOE: borderline).

There is insufficient evidence to accurately estimate the risk of withdrawing from trials due to adverse events or other reasons in patients receiving GLM, CZP or UST compared to each other or to the other agents of interest; however, there are signals from one recent meta-analysis that the risk of withdrawal may be lower with ADA or GLM when compared to IFX (LOE: inconclusive).

6d. MORTALITY

The evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies is insufficient to reliably determine the relative risks of mortality in patients with RA, psoriasis or PsA who receive ADA, CZP, ETN, GLM, IFX or UST (LOE: inconclusive).

Indirect evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies suggests that RA patients receiving IFX, ADA, ETN or GLM are not at increased risk for mortality compared to patients receiving standard non-biologic agents therapy (LOE: borderline).

The evidence is insufficient to determine risk of mortality in patients receiving CZP or UST (LOE: inconclusive).

High quality studies with extensive follow-up periods are needed in order to accurately determine the relative risk of mortality in patients receiving these antirheumatic agents.

6e. DEMYELINATING DISEASE

There is insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of developing demyelinating disease in patients receiving the agents (LOE: inconclusive).

High quality studies of sufficient duration are needed to determine the relative risks for demyelinating disease in RA patients, PsA patients and patients with psoriasis receiving various antirheumatic agents.

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6f. INFUSION REACTIONS

The evidence is sufficient to conclude that the risk of mild infusion reactions in patients treated with IFX is higher than in patients treated with placebo (LOE: borderline).

6g. INJECTION SITE REACTIONS

The evidence is sufficient to conclude that the risk of mild injection site reactions is higher in patients treated with ADA and ETN than in patients treated with placebo (LOE: borderline).

The evidence is insufficient for determining the relative risk of injection site reactions in patients treated with ADA, CZP, ETN, GLM and UST (LOE: inconclusive).

7. EVIDENCE REVIEW: DETAILS

It should be noted that the pivotal trials of biologic agents were designed to show statistically significant differences in efficacy outcomes—not safety outcomes. Therefore, it is important to understand that the pivotal trials included in the meta-analyses summarized below were not powered to detect statistically significant differences in outcomes such as serious infections, malignancies, lymphomas, withdrawals and other adverse events included in this review.

7a. SERIOUS INFECTIONS, TUBERCULOSIS (TB) AND NON-TB OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS

7a1. Serious Infections

Rheumatoid Arthritis: Meta-analyses and RCTs of Serious Infections in Patients Treated with ADA, IFX ETN and CZP (Tables 3a-3d)

In a recent meta-analysis of 5,619 RA patients being treated with biologic agents, investigators evaluated serious infections (defined as adverse events requiring prolonged hospitalization, adverse events leading to the risk of death or resulting in death or classified as serious by investigators) (Wien 10). Comparators were placebo with or without MTX. The relative risk for serious infection was lower in patients treated with ETN compared to patients treated with the monoclonal antibodies ADA and IFX; however, the differences were not statistically significant.

Three relevant trials totaling 1,785 RA patients from three RCTs (Fleischmann 09, Keystone 08a, Smolen 09), reported signals of increased serious infection rates for patients treated with CZP compared to placebo with or without MTX. The trials were potentially underpowered to detect statistically significant differences between the groups in rates of severe infection. A meta-analysis of 4 trials of CZP (N=1929), which included the above 3 trials and one trial conducted in patients with Crohn's disease, reported that CZP was associated with a significantly higher risk of serious infections compared to control treatments (OR 3.51 (95% CI 1.59 to 7.79, NNH = 17 (95% CI 7 to 68) (Singh 11). CZP was also associated with significantly higher odds of serious infections compared to ETN, ADA and IFX: ETN OR 3.32 (95%CI 1.43 to 7.75), ADA OR 3.15 (95%CI 1.31 to 7.52), IFX OR 2.42 (95% CI 1.05 to 5.60).

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Table 3a. Risk of Serious Infections in RA Patients Receiving ADA, IFX and ETN Compared to Placebo +/- MTX (Wien 10)

Drug	Trials Reporting Serious Infection Data	N	Relative Risk (95% CI)	P-value
ADA	Keystone 04, Kim 07, Miyasaka 07, Furst 03, van de Putte 03, Breedveld 06	2300	2.22 (0.83 to 5.99)	0.11
IFX	Lipsky 00, Maini 99, St Clair 04, Westhovens 06, Schiff 08	2017	0.96 (0.39 to 2.38)	0.93
ETN	Klareskog 04, Emery 08, Lan 04	1302	0.89 (0.54 to 1.48)	0.66

In a previous meta-analysis, the risk of serious infection in RA patients was also lowest with ETN and highest with IFX, but the RRs were also not statistically significant (Alonso Ruiz 08). Respective relative risks compared to placebo for IFX, ADA and ETN were 1.8 (95% CI 0.9 to 3.4), 1.2 (95% CI 0.6 to 2.8) and 0.9 (95% CI 0.4 to 2.3).

In an earlier meta-analysis of nine trials that included 3,493 patients who received anti-TNF antibody treatment and 1512 patients who received placebo, the authors pooled serious infection rates in patients receiving both monoclonal antibodies (IFX and ADA) and compared the rates of serious infection to placebo with or without MTX (Bongartz 06). The pooled odds ratio (OR) for the combination of IFX and ADA was statistically significant, OR 2.0 (95% CI 1.3 to 3.1). One out of 59 patients (95% CI 39 to 125) taking IFX or ADA for 3 to 12 months would experience an additional serious infection that would not have occurred if the patient had received placebo with or without MTX.

Table 3b. Risk of Serious Infections in RA Patients Receiving ADA or IFX Compared to Placebo +/- MTX (Bongartz 06)

Drug	Trials Reporting Serious Infection Data	N	Pooled Odds Ratio* ADA and IFX (95% CI)	P-value
ADA	Keystone 04, Furst 03, van de Putte 03, van de Putte 04, Breedveld 06, Weinblatt 03, Keystone 04	5,005	2.01 (1.31 to 3.09)	0.002
IFX	Lipsky 00, Maini 98, St Clair 04, Westhovens 04			

* Absolute difference within 3-12 months: 1.7% (95% CI 0.8 to 2.6); * NNH within 3-12 months: 59 (95% CI 39 to 125)

Table 3c. Risk of Serious Infections CZP Compared To Controls (3 RA trials, 1 Crohn's Disease Trial) (Singh 11)

Intervention	Comparison	Risk Comparator	Risk With Agent (95% CI)	Relative Effect	N	Quality Rating (GRADE)	NNH (95% CI)
CZP	Control	26 per 1000	86 per 1000 (41 to 172)	OR 3.51 (95% CI 1.59 to 7.79)	1929 (4 studies)	Moderate	17 (7 to 68)

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Table 3d. Risk of Serious Infections CZP Compared To ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX and Placebo (3 RA trials, 1 Crohn's Disease Trial) (Singh 11)

Agent	Comparator	Odds Ratio (95% CI)
ADA*	CZP	0.32 (95% CI 0.13 to 0.76)
CZP*	ETN	3.32 (95% CI 0.1.43 to 7.75)
CZP*	GLM	2.73 (95% CI 1.04 to 7.13)
CZP*	IFX	2.42 (95% CI 1.05 to 5.60)
CZP*	Placebo	3.51 (95% CI 1.59 to 7.79)

*Statistically significant

Rheumatoid Arthritis: Observational Studies of Severe Infections in Patients Treated with IFX, ADA and ETN (Tables 3e-3f)

In the largest observational study based on registry data done to date, using data from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR), investigators compared the risk of serious infections (defined as those requiring intravenous antibiotics or hospitalization, or those resulting in death) in 11,798 anti-TNF-treated patients and 3,598 patients treated with traditional DMARDs (Galloway 10). The incidence rate for serious infection in the combined anti-TNF group was 42/1,000 patient-years of follow-up (95% CI 40 to 44) and in the traditional DMARDs group was 32/1,000 patient-years of follow-up (95% CI 28 to 36). For IFX the rate was 46/1,000 patient-years of follow-up (95% CI 42 to 50). For ADA the rate was 43/1,000 patient-years (95% CI 39 to 47). For ETN the rate was 38/1,000 patient-years (95% CI 35 to 42). The differences in hazard ratios among the three agents were not statistically significant.

In a large retrospective cohort study of serious infections comparing IFX, ADA and ETN to MTX in RA patients, the incident rate ratio (IRR) for IFX +ADA (N=850) in the first 6 months was 2.4 (95% CI 1.4 to 5.2). For ETN (N= 1412) compared to MTX, the IRR was not statistically significant at 1.2 (95% CI 0.5 to 2.5). ADA was excluded from the analysis because of a small N (118) (Curtis 07). After 6 months, there were no significantly increased risks in either of the groups compared to MTX. The authors state that the reduction in infection rates seen with both IFX and ETN after 6 months of therapy could be due to a change in the study cohort where patients who experience a serious infection early in the course of therapy discontinue the drug, resulting in a less susceptible cohort later in time.

In a retrospective cohort study which utilized registry data from a German biologics registry of RA patients comparing severe adverse events and infection rates in patients taking biologic agents to non-biologic DMARDs, the RR of lower respiratory infection for IFX was 4.82 (95% CI 1.4 to 20.8) (Listing 05). For patients receiving ETN, the RR was 2.66 (95% CI 0.7 to 11.8). RRs for skin and subcutaneous infections were similar for ETN and IFX. The respective RRs for bone and joint infections were not statistically significantly different for patients taking the biologic agents and patients taking conventional DMARDs. The RR for IFX was 1.75 (95% CI 0.1 to 28.0). The RR for ETN was 5.91 (95% CI 0.7 to 50.7).

In a retrospective cohort study examining safety in the first 36 months of biologic agent usage based on data from the Italian Lombardy Rheumatology Network (LORHEN) registry which included 1,114 patients with long-standing RA (519 treated with IFX, 303 with ADA, and 242 with ETN), the incidence rate (IR) for serious infections defined as the number of events per 1,000 patient-years was higher in patients receiving monoclonal antibodies (Favalli 09). The IR was 38.91 (95% CI 27.14 to 50.67) in the IFX patients, 38.17 (95% CI 21.44 to 54.90) in patients receiving ADA and 25.58 (95% CI 10.46 to 40.69) in patients receiving ETN.

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Table 3e. Risk of Serious Infections in RA Patients Receiving ADA or IFX Registries and Observational Study (Galloway 10, Favalli 09, Curtis 07, Listing 05)

SOURCE	COMPARATORS	OUTCOMES	COMMENTS
Galloway 10 British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR)	IFX ADA ETN Non-biologic DMARDs	INCIDENCE RATES PER 1,000 PATIENT-YRS 46/1,000 (95% CI 42 to 50) 43/1,000 (95% CI 39 to 47) 38/1,000 (95% CI 35 to 42) 32/1,000 (95% CI 28 to 36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11,798 anti-TNF-treated RA patients 3,598 patients treated with traditional DMARDs Largest registry study to date
Favalli 09 Italian Lombardy Rheumatology Network (LORHEN) registry	IFX ADA ETN	INCIDENCE RATES PER 1,000 PATIENT-YRS 38.91 (95% CI 27.14 to 50.67) 38.17 (95% CI 21.44 to 54.90) 25.58 (95% CI 10.46 to 40.69)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,114 patients with RA 519 treated with IFX 303 with ADA 242 with ETN
Curtis 07 Retrospective Cohort	IFX + ADA ETN MTX	INCIDENCE RATE RATIO (COMPARATOR IS MTX) 2.4 (95% CI 1.4 to 5.2) 1.2 (95% CI 0.5 to 2.5) Reference Agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA N=850 ETN N=1,412 Rates are for first six months on agent No statistically significant increase after 6 months
Listing 05 German biologics registry	IFX ETN Non-biologic DMARDs	RR OF LOWER RESPIRATORY INFECTION 4.82 (95% CI 1.4 to 20.8) 2.66 (95% CI 0.7 to 11.8) Reference Agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates for bone, joint, skin and subcutaneous infections not statistically different from non-biologic DMARDs

Data from the British RA Registry (Dixon 07) was used to calculate the relative differences in rates of serious infections (defined as those that led to death or hospitalization or required intravenous antibiotics) in RA patients receiving IFX, ADA and ETN compared to patients receiving conventional DMARDs (Table 3d), adjusted for the timing of starting and stopping therapy and duration of therapy. The investigators reported that in the ever-received IFX analysis, but not the ADA or ETN analyses, there was a statistically significant increased IRR. The calculations were based on data from 8,659 patients treated with biologic agents and 2,170 patients treated with traditional DMARDs. Examination of the confidence levels suggests that, for IFX, the increased risk for infection could be increased by approximately 2% to 97% (relative increase in risk) whereas in the ADA and ETN groups, the difference between the biologic agent and conventional DMARDs was not statistically significant. These investigators postulate that a clinician's assessment of risk of infection following an initial infection and subsequent prescribing changes may seriously compromise interpretation of infection rates in registry studies of biologic agents because patients allowed to continue a biologic agent following an infection may result in a "healthy drug continuers" or "depletion of susceptibles" effect, where those patients who are allowed to continue the drug are at the lowest risk for infection.

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Table 3f. Incidence Rate Ratios (IRR) of Serious Infections in RA Patients Receiving ADA, ETN and IFX (Comparator is Traditional DMARDs) (Dixon 07)

CATEGORY	IFX	ADA	ETN
Infections per patient year	Receiving Agent Analysis: 317/5,034=6.3% Receiving Agent + 90 days: 354/5,226=6.8% Ever-received Agent: 405/5,874=6.9% Average 6.7%	Receiving Agent Analysis: 112/2,221=5.0% Receiving Agent + 90 days: 127/2,323=5.5% Ever-received Agent : 138/2,548=5.4% Average=5.3%	Receiving Agent Analysis: 308/6,021=5.1% Receiving Agent + 90 days: 361/6,274=5.1% Ever-received Agent: 432/6,998=6.2% Average=5.5%
Adjusted IRR (receiving Rx)	1.28 (95% CI 0.91 to 1.81)	1.17 (95% CI 0.81 to 1.69)	1.15 (95% CI 0.82 to 1.61)
Adjusted IRR (receiving Rx plus 90 day window lag)	1.35 (95% CI 0.97 to 1.89)	1.24 (95% CI 0.87 to 1.78)	1.26 (95% CI 0.91 to 1.74)
Adjusted IRR (ever received Rx)	1.41 (95% CI 1.02 to 1.97)	1.25 (95% CI 0.88 to 1.77)	1.34 (95% CI 0.97 to 1.86)

In summary, indirect evidence from RCTs and observational studies regarding serious infections in RA patients being treated with IFX, ADA and ETN is of borderline strength and suggestive that ETN is associated with a lower risk of serious infections when compared to the pooled risk for IFX and ADA. High quality, direct comparison studies with extensive follow-up periods are needed in order to confirm these findings and more accurately determine the comparative risks of serious infections in patients receiving these three biologic agents. Inconclusive evidence from RCTs (Singh 11) suggests that CZP is associated with a higher risk of serious infections when compared to ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX: ETN OR 3.32 (95% CI 1.43 to 7.75), ADA OR 3.15 (95% CI 1.31 to 7.52), infliximab (OR 2.42, 95% CI 1.05 to 5.60).

Rheumatoid Arthritis: RCTs Evaluating Risk of Serious Infections with GLM

Two recent RCTs (Keystone 08b, Kremer 10) totaling 1,087 RA patients, reported more frequent severe infections in the GLM + MTX groups than in the placebo + MTX groups. A third RCT (Kavanaugh 09), which included 405 patients, reported similar rates in the study groups (P-values not provided). In a meta-analysis of safety data from 1,231 patients in 6 RCTs (Emery 09, Kay 08, Keystone 08b, Smolen 09, Keystone 10, Kremer 10), a statistically significant increase in serious infections with GLM compared to placebo was not found (Singh 10). Long-term surveillance studies and larger RCTs with safety outcomes are needed to provide reliable data regarding the risk of serious infections in patients treated with GLM.

Psoriasis: Meta-analyses, RCTs and Observational Studies Evaluating Risk of Serious Infection in Patients Treated With ADA, ETN, IFX and UST

Comparative safety data for serious infections in psoriasis patients treated with ADA, ETN, IFX and UST are sparse, and the comparative safety of these agents for severe infections is inconclusive. Rates of severe infection in published studies are approximately 1%. A recent safety review of clinical trials, observational studies, registries and databases reporting safety outcomes in studies of ETN and UST in the previous 20 years summarized the data on severe infections and reported that, in 8 clinical trials, the rates of serious infections in patients receiving ETN were not statistically higher than those in the placebo groups. Significant differences between UST and placebo groups for serious adverse events were not found (Uhlenhake 10). We found 4 RCTs with relevant published safety data for UST in moderate to severe psoriasis, totaling 3,219 patients (Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07, Griffiths 10). The studies were potentially underpowered to detect statistically significant differences between the groups in rates of severe infection. In one trial, 766 patients were studied for 76 weeks with findings of similar serious infection rates of less than 1% in the UST and placebo groups (Leonardi 08). In a 40-week trial (Papp 08), severe infection rates were <2% in the placebo group and the combined UST groups. In a trial of 320 patients with a mean follow-up of 19 weeks (Krueger 07), there were no statistically significant differences in rates of severe infections in the UST and placebo groups. A meta-analysis of these three trials (Tan 10) reported that differences in rates of serious AEs including infection compared to placebo in the UST 45mg group and 90 mg group were not statistically different with respective relative risks of 1.17 (95% CI 0.98 to 1.38) and 1.06 (95% CI 0.89 to 1.27).

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In a trial of 903 patients comparing UST 45mg and 90mg to ETN 50mg twice weekly (64 weeks of safety data) (Griffiths 10), the serious infection rate for infections of common bacterial or viral origin was 1.2% in the ETN group, 1% in the group that received 45 mg of UST and 2.9% in patients receiving 90 mg of UST. A systematic review that included three of these RCTs, totaling 2,316 patients, reported a serious infection rate of less than 1% for placebo, UST 45mg and UST 90 mg groups for up to 12 weeks (Scanlon 09).

We found one meta-analysis comparing severe infection rates in ADA-treated patients with RA to rates in patients with PsA and psoriasis (Burmester 09). Data were taken from 36 trials of ADA, 19 in RA (N=12,345), 3 in PsA (N=837), 3 in ankylosing spondylitis, 1 in juvenile inflammatory arthritis, 5 in Crohn's disease and 5 in psoriasis (N=1,819). The meta-analysis included randomized controlled trials, open-label trials and long-term extension studies. The rate of serious infections per 100 patient-years was 1.32 in the psoriasis group and 4.65 in the RA group. P-values were not provided.

We found five RCTs reporting safety outcomes for IFX in the treatment of psoriasis (Chaudhari 01, Gottlieb 04, Reich 05, Menter 06, Antoni 08), but only one reported serious infection rates. In an RCT reporting safety outcomes over 30 weeks in 445 patients treated with IFX versus placebo, the percent of patients with severe infections was 0% in the placebo group and 0.5% in the combined IFX groups. P-values were not reported (Gottlieb 04).

Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA): RCTs Evaluating Risk of Serious Infections with ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX and UST

In one meta-analysis (Burmester 09), the rate of serious infections per 100 patient-years was lower in PsA patients than in RA patients with rates of 2.81 in PsA patients and 4.65 in RA patients. P-values were not reported.

Studies of PsA patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX and UST are small, and estimates of effect need confirmation from larger clinical trials. A 12-week trial with 12 weeks of additional open-label extension comparing ETN 50 mg weekly to 50 mg twice weekly in patients with psoriasis and PsA (N=752) reported serious infection rates of less than 1% in ETN and placebo groups (Sterry 10). A trial of ADA reported similar rates of less than 1% with both ADA and placebo (N=298) in a 24-week trial. In a two year open-label extension including only ADA, the rate of serious infection was 5% (Mease 09). In a 16-week trial with an open-label extension to 98 weeks (N=104), the rate of severe infections was 2.6% (Antoni 08). In a 24-week trial comparing 343 patients treated with GLM to 113 patients treated with placebo, the rate of serious infection was 4% in the placebo group and less than 1% in the GLM group (Kavanaugh 09). In a 36 week cross-over trial of 146 patients receiving UST, the rate of serious infections was less than 1% (Gottlieb 09). We found no useful registry information on the biologic agents of interest in the treatment of PsA.

In summary, safety data for serious infections in psoriasis and PsA patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX and UST are sparse, and the comparative safety of these agents for severe infections is inconclusive.

7a2. Risk of Tuberculosis (TB) in RA Patients Receiving IFX, ADA and ETN (Tables 4-5f)

The risk for developing or reactivating TB or other granulomatous diseases in RA patients receiving IFX, ADA or ETN appears to be low. However, the evidence suggests that the risk may be lower in patients receiving ETN than in those treated with the monoclonal antibodies. For example, in a meta-analysis of 9 RCTs which included 3,493 patients who received anti-TNF antibody treatment with ADA or IFX and 1,512 patients who received placebo, only 12 of the 126 serious infections could be identified as granulomatous: 10 cases of tuberculosis, 1 case of histoplasmosis, and 1 case of coccidiomycosis (Bongartz 06).

In a study of 4,322 subjects (3,399 average subject-years of exposure) enrolled in 18 RA trials, 2 PsA trials, and 2 ankylosing spondylitis trials that assessed long term safety outcomes of ETN, there were no cases of tuberculosis (Fleischmann 06). The rates of TB in patients receiving IFX, ADA or ETN reported in RCTs and observational studies conducted after recommendations for routine TB screening were less than 1% in another study (Schiff 06). However, individual RCTs have reported increased rates of tuberculosis in patients receiving IFX compared to

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those receiving traditional DMARDs (St. Clair 04, Breedveld 04, Westhovens 06 reviewed in Nams 10), and observational studies have reported higher rates of TB in patients receiving IFX and ADA than in patients receiving ETN (Dixon 10, Schiff 06, Tubach 09, Dixon 06, Asking 05, Seong 07, Gomez-Reino 07, Mohan 04, Wolfe 04).

Based on safety data for ADA-treated patients from RCTs, open-label extensions and 2 phase IIIb open-label trials (10,050 patients, representing 12,506 patient-years (PY) of ADA exposure), one systematic review reported the incidence of tuberculosis prior to routine TB screening in patients receiving ADA to be 7 cases of TB in 534 patient-years (PY) of ADA exposure (1.3/100 PY), but the incidence was only 23 cases in 7,058 PY (0.27/100 PY) beginning in 1999 when trial protocols called for tuberculosis screening. Following the initiation of TB screening, 5/866 patients receiving tuberculosis prophylaxis (0.6%) developed active tuberculosis (Schiff 06).

The most recent prospective observational study using data from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR) (Dixon 10) (Table 4) reported rates of tuberculosis to April 2008 in 10,712 anti-TNF treated RA patients (3,913 receiving ETN, 3,295 receiving IFX and 3,504 receiving ADA) and 3,232 patients treated with traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. Forty cases of TB were reported, all in the anti-TNF cohort. The rate of TB was higher for the monoclonal antibodies, ADA and IFX. For ADA there were 11 cases (144 events/100,000 person-years) and for IFX there were also 11 cases (136/100,000 person-years). In patients receiving ETN, there were 5 cases (39/100,000 person-years). After adjustment, the incidence rate ratio (IRR) compared with ETN-treated patients was 3.1 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.5) for IFX and 4.2 (1.4 to 12.4) for ADA. The median time-to-event was lowest for IFX (5.5 months) compared with ETN (13.4 months) and ADA (18.5 months). 13/40 cases (32.5%) occurred after stopping treatment and 25/40 (62%) cases were extrapulmonary. Eleven cases were disseminated. Patients of non-white ethnicity had a six-fold increased risk of TB compared with white patients treated with anti-TNF therapy.

Table 4. Observational Studies of Tuberculosis in RA Patients Treated with IFX, ADA and ETN (Dixon 10)

Drug (N)	Cases	Rate TB	IRR (Compared To ETN)
ADA (3,504)	11	144/100,000	3.1 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.5)
IFX (3259)	11	136/100,000	4.2 (95% CI 1.4 to 12.4)
ETN (3913)	5	39/100,000	Reference Agent

Registry studies from other countries have also reported lower rates of TB in patients treated with ETN than in patients treated with monoclonal antibodies (Tubach 09, Asking 05, Seong 07, Gomez-Reino 07). The difference in rates of TB between monoclonal antibodies and ETN is estimated to be approximately 100 events/100,000 person-years.

In a French registry study (Tubach 09), investigators conducted an incidence study and case-control analysis to determine the risk of newly diagnosed TB associated with the use of monoclonal anti-TNF agents received for any indication. Data from the French Research Axed on Tolerance of Biotherapies (RATIO) registry was used. For the incidence study, the investigators estimated the annual incidence rate of TB in patients treated with anti-TNF monoclonal antibody therapy, adjusted for age and sex, compared with the incidence of TB in the French population. Data was prospectively collected for all cases of TB occurring from February 1, 2004 to January 1, 2007 in patients who were receiving anti-TNF monoclonal antibody therapy. In the case-control study, for each case of TB occurring in patients receiving IFX or ADA, 2 patients treated with anti-TNF agents served as control subjects.

Seventy-five cases of TB were identified and 69 cases were validated: 40 in rheumatoid arthritis patients, 18 in patients with spondylarthritides, 9 in patients with inflammatory colitis, and 1 each in patients with psoriasis and Behcet's disease. Thirty-six patients had received IFX, 28 had received ADA and 5 had received ETN. Among the 58 patients receiving only 1 anti-TNF agent, 34 (58.6%) had received IFX, 23 (39.7%) had received ADA and 1 (1.7%) had received ETN. The standardized incidence ratios (SIR) and odds ratios are provided in Tables 5a and 5b. The authors conclude that the risk of TB is higher for patients receiving anti-TNF monoclonal antibody therapy than for those receiving soluble TNF receptor therapy. They also point out that the numerous registries which were set up in multiple countries to investigate the safety of anti-TNF agents after the FDA alert regarding the risk of TB associated with the use of IFX (with the exception of the French registry) are cohort studies. A concern with cohort

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studies is that they involve only a part of the population of interest and are not likely to be sufficiently powered to demonstrate very rare events or investigate risk differences between anti-TNF agents. For example, an early British registry reported an incidence of TB of 1.5 per 1,000 patient-years with IFX and 0.5 per 1,000 patient-years in patients treated with ETN, but the numbers of cases were only 7 and 2, respectively (Dixon 06). In a Swedish registry, the incidence rates were 1.5 per 1,000 patient-years with IFX and 0.8 per 1,000 patient-years with ETN. Nine cases were treated with IFX alone, and 4 cases were treated with ETN alone (Asking 05). In a Korean study, 2 cases of TB were observed among 90 patients receiving IFX, and no cases were observed among 103 patients receiving ETN (Seong 07). The French investigators concluded that difference in risk between the types of anti-TNF agents was only suggested in the earlier registry studies, but that their study has demonstrated the increased risk of TB in patients treated with the monoclonal antibodies (Tubach 09). The problem of failure to demonstrate differences in outcomes between agents if they exist because of lack of power also exists in the currently available RCTs and meta-analyses. Larger clinical trials and registry studies are needed to confirm these findings.

**Table 5a. TB In 68 Patients Receiving Biologic Agents Compared To 136 Control Subjects Without TB Receiving Anti-TNF Therapy
RATIO French Registry (Tubach 09)**

Last anti-TNF Agent Received	Odds Ratio	P-Value
ETN	1	n/a
ADA	17.08 (95% CI 3.62 to 80.59)	<0.001
IFX	13.29 (95% CI 2.56 to 69.04)	0.002

**Table 5b. Risk of TB by Biologic Agent
Standardized Incidence Ratios (SIR) of IFX, ADA and Odds Ratio of IFX and ADA Versus ETN
(Tubach 09)**

Agent	N	SIR with French Population as Reference	Odds Ratio of Agent Compared to ETN
Only IFX	34	18.6 (95% CI 13.4 to 25.8)	13.3 (95% CI 2.6 to 69.0)
Only ADA	23	29.3 (95% CI 20.3 to 42.4)	17.1 (95% CI 3.6 to 80.6)
Only ETN	1	1.8 (95% CI 0.7 to 4.3)	Reference agent
All Anti-TNF	69	12.2 (95% CI 9.7 to 15.5)	Not reported

A Spanish registry study (Gomez-Reino 07) evaluated new cases of active tuberculosis after March 2002 in patients treated with tumor necrosis factor antagonists for rheumatic disease included in the national registry BIOBADASER (Base de Datos de Productos Biologicos de la Sociedad Espanola de Reumatologia) after the dissemination of recommendations to prevent reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection. The risk of TB was reported in patients receiving ADA, ETA and IFX. The risk of TB was greater in patients treated with IFX and ADA than in patients receiving ETN (Table 5c).

Table 5c. Risk of TB by Biologic Agent after March 2002 (Gomez-Reino 07)

Agent	Cases/Subjects (Time-to-Develop)	Incidence per 100,000/yr
IFX	5/1303 (1.2 to 8.7 mos)	383 (95% CI 159 to 921)
ADA	1/565 (14 mos)	176 (95% CI 24 to 1,245)
ETN	2/1740 (<2.5 mos)	114 (95% CI 28 to 459)

In a study based on data from the Korean National Tuberculosis Association (KNTA), investigators used 1,285 patients with RA not exposed to TNF blockers as a control and reviewed medical records of 90 and 103 patients with RA treated with IFX or ETN between the years 2001 and 2005 (Seong 07). The estimated mean risk of TB in the Korean population was 67.2 per 100,000 PY. In the IFX RA group, 2 cases of TB developed during 78.17 patient-years (PY) of follow-up (incidence of 2,558 per 100,000 PY), and there were no cases of TB during 73.67 PY of follow-up in the ETN group. The risk of TB in RA patients receiving IFX was approximately 30 times higher than

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the risk in the general Korean population. There was no increased risk found with ETN compared to the Korean population (Table 5d).

Table 5d. Risk of TB by Biologic Agent (Seong 07)

Agent	Cases/Subjects	Sex- And Age-adjusted Risk Ratio (Compared to Korean Population)
IFX	2/90	30.1 (95% CI 7.4 to 122.3)
ETN	0/103	1

In a Swedish registry study (Askling 05), the incidence of reported TB in RA-patients treated with TNF antagonists from 1999 through 2004 was 118 (95% CI 58 to 210) per 100,000 person-years among RA patients during treatment, and 105 (95% CI 56 to 180) per 100,000 person-years among RA patients who had ever been treated with a TNF antagonist. Among RA patients who had received only IFX, the incidence of TB during treatment was 145 (95% CI 58 to 299) per 100,000 person-years; among RA patients who had received only ETN, the incidence was 80 (95% CI 16 to 232) per 100,000 person-years; and, among patients who had received both IFX and ETN, the incidence was 129 (95% CI 3.3 to 719) per 100,000 person years. The relative risk for TB in patients treated with ETN compared to IFX was 0.5 (95% CI 0.1 to 2.4).

Table 5e. Risk of TB by Biologic Agent (Askling 05)

Agent	Incidence of TB / 100,000 PY	Relative Risk For TB Compared to IFX
IFX Only	145 (95% CI 58 to 299)	n/a
ETN Only	80 (95% CI 16 to 232)	0.5 (95% CI 0.1 to 2.4)

In a small, retrospective observational study of TB following the use of ETN based on data reported to the Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through March 2002, the estimated number of TB cases reported to the FDA for each person-year of treatment with ETN in patients with RA was approximately 10 cases/100,000 patient-years of exposure (Mohan 04). In contrast, in a prospective cohort study there was an eightfold higher rate of tuberculosis in patients treated with IFX than in patients in a historic control group who had been treated with synthetic DMARDs. The TB rates were 6.2 cases (95% CI 1.6 to 34.4) per 100,000 patient-years in the control group and 52.5 cases (95% CI 14.3 to 134.4) per 100,000 patient-years in patients treated with IFX (Wolfe 04).

Table 5f. Risk of TB by Biologic Agent(Mohan 04, Wolfe 04)

Agent	Reference	Incidence of TB / 100,000 PY
ETN	Mohan 04, FDA reports between Nov 1998 and March 2002	10 cases (95% CI not provided)
IFX	Wolfe 04, Prospective cohort study 2 Yrs N=6,460	52.5 cases (95% CI 14.3 to 134.4)

In summary, weak, indirect, but consistent evidence from RCTs and observational studies regarding TB in RA patients and larger populations treated with IFX, ADA and ETN is suggestive that ETN is associated with a decreased risk of serious infections when compared to IFX and ADA. High quality, direct comparison studies with extensive follow-up periods are needed in order to confirm these findings and more precisely define the comparative risks of TB in patients receiving these three biologic agents.

7a3. Fungal and Non-TB Opportunistic Infections Associated With ADA, IFX, ETN in RA (Table 6)

Fungal infections and other opportunistic infections have been reported in RA patients taking ADA, IFX and ETN, but the incidence rates are low and the evidence regarding comparative safety differences between ADA, IFX and ETN is inconclusive (Tsidodras 08).

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In a three year French registry study (Salmon-Ceron 10), investigators conducted an incidence study and case-control study to determine the risk of non-tuberculosis opportunistic infections (OIs) associated with IFX, ADA and ETN. The French RATIO registry was designed by a multidisciplinary expert group to prospectively collect all cases of OI occurring from 1 February 2004 to 1 February 2007 in France, in patients who were receiving or had received anti-TNF treatment before the occurrence of the OI. Annual incidence rate of OIs in patients receiving anti-TNF treatment was determined, adjusted for age and sex, with the French population used as the reference. A case-control study was performed using cases from the RATIO registry. Controls were patients treated with anti-TNF agents (current treatment or stopped for <24 months), for a labeled indication, in whom no OI had ever developed. Three controls for each case were randomly selected from that database, matched to cases by sex and underlying inflammatory disease. A consensus-based validation process for all OI cases was carried out by 3 infectious disease specialists. Cases for which diagnosis was uncertain or possible as opposed to certain were excluded.

The diagnosis of the 45 validated infections (out of 67 reported cases) in 43 patients was as follows:

- 15 bacterial infections (4 listeriosis, 4 nocardiosis, 4 atypical mycobacteriosis and 3 non-typhoid bacteremic salmonellosis);
- 18 severe viral infections (8 severe herpes zoster, 3 varicella with visceral involvement, 3 extensive herpes simplex infection and 4 disseminated cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection);
- 10 fungal infections (5 pneumocystis infections, 3 invasive aspergillosis and 2 cryptococcosis); and,
- 2 parasitic infections (2 leishmaniasis).

Twenty-six (60.5%) patients with OIs had been diagnosed with RA. Three cases (7%) occurred in patients with psoriatic arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis. There were 8 cases (18.6%) of Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis and 1 case (2.3%) of psoriasis. 22 cases were excluded because of lack of microbiological/histological confirmation (n=17) or because they were not considered to be an OIs (n=5).

For the 34 patients who had received only one anti-TNF agent, 25 had received IFX, 7 had received ADA and 2 had received ETN. For the 2 patients with 2 OIs, 1 received IFX for RA and presented with aspergillosis. IFX was later resumed, and the patient secondarily developed listeriosis. The second received IFX for inflammatory colitis and presented concomitantly a disseminated cytomegalic virus infection and a pneumocystis infection. Six patients were thought to have had another cause of immunosuppression other than anti-TNF (1 diabetes mellitus, 1 history of cancer, 1 AIDS and 3 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

The main analysis relied on a total number of 57,711 patient-years of use of anti-TNF therapy in France during the 2004 through 2006 study period, with 18% receiving ADA, 51% ETN and 31% IFX. The annual adjusted incidence rates of OIs were lowest for ETN (Table 6). In the case-control study, factors predictive of OI were treatment with IFX versus ETN, treatment with ADA versus ETN and treatment with steroids (Table 6). Multiple sensitivity analyses gave similar results, suggesting that the risk of non-TB OIs may be higher with monoclonal anti-TNF antibody therapy rather than with soluble TNF receptor therapy.

As in all observational studies, numerous biases may have distorted results. For example, there may have been over-reporting or under-reporting, and patients may have received other immunosuppressive drugs. These biases appear to have been minimized by the methodology of the study. Important aspects of this study include the validation of infections and the sensitivity analyses. Reporting of all severe drug-related adverse events is mandatory in France. All cases of OI reported to the 31 French pharmacovigilance regional centers were collected along with reports to individual drug companies. Reminders were sent to physicians 4 times each year. OI definition was based on the list of OIs used to identify B and C stages of HIV infection with the addition to the list of other severe infections usually considered as opportunistic in immunosuppressed patients. TB and legionellosis were excluded because they were analyzed in other French registry studies. In almost half the cases, the OI was due to an intracellular multiplying organism. It is important to note that many of the patients developing OIs reported in this study experienced severe clinical courses. 26% of patients required hospitalization in the intensive

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care unit and 9% died from the OI. This study appears to have addressed some concerns about lack of severity of reported OIs and selective reporting which may have been present in previous studies.

Table 6. Non-TB Opportunistic Infections With ADA, IFX, ETN (Salmon-Ceron 10)

Agent	Annual Rate OI/100,000 Patient-years
IFX	290.9 (95% CI 0.0 to 835.8)
ADA	61.8 (95% CI 0.0 to 162.5)
ETN	7.1 (95% CI 0.0 to 24.2)
Odds Ratio (Comparator was patients receiving TNFIs without previous OI)	
Treatment with IFX versus treatment with ETN	17.6 (95% CI 4.3 to 72.9)
Treatment with ADA versus treatment with ETN	10.28 (95% CI 2.35 to 44.94)
Treatment with steroids >10 mg/day or intravenous boluses during the previous year	10.0 (95% CI 2.3 to 44.4)
Sensitivity Analysis: OIs per 100,000 patient-years with 95% confidence interval for all the TNFIs, according to the last anti-TNF agent received and according to each drug in patients having received only one TNFI	
Category; N	Incidence Rate OIs per 100,000 PT YR
All TNFIs; N=45	151.6 (95% CI 0 to 468.3)
Last TNFI IFX; N=31	290.9 (95% CI 0 to 835.8)
Last TNFI ADA; N=10	61.8 (95% CI 0 to 162.5)
Last TNFI ETN; N=4	7.1 (95% CI 0 to 24.2)
Only IFX; N=27	245.2 (95% CI 0 to 728.7)
Only ADA; N=7	50.1 (95% CI 0 to 144.5)
Only ETN; N=2	4.5 (95% CI 0 to 20)

In a review of case reports of invasive fungal infections (IFI) in any condition associated with IFX, ADA and ETN (Tsiodras 08), the authors grouped fungal infections by major category, i.e., molds, yeasts and IFIs caused by endemic and dimorphic fungi. Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonias (PCPs) were excluded. The authors reported that, of 281 cases of IFI obtained in a search of PubMed and MEDLINE databases (based on National Library of Medicine filing dates from January 1, 1966, to June 1, 2007), 226 cases (80%) were associated with IFX, 44 (16%) with ETN and 11 (4%) with ADA. Histoplasmosis (n = 84), candidiasis (n = 64), and aspergillosis (n = 64) were the most frequently observed fungal infections in the study.

- The authors identified 84 cases of histoplasmosis: 72 (86%) were associated with IFX, 8 (10%) with ETN, and 4 (5%) with ADA. Most cases for which data were available occurred in areas endemic for the fungus, and all patients received concomitant immunosuppressant medication.
- Candida Infections: 64 of cases of Candida infection were identified in patients receiving TNFI therapy—54 (84%) were associated with IFX, 9 (14%) with ETN, and 1 (2%) with ADA. The affected patients ranged in age from 28 to 74 years. The number of infusions of anti-TNF- α agent was noted for only 3 patients, all of whom received infliximab; the range was 2 to 35 infusions. The pattern of underlying disease was Graft Versus Host Disease in 11 of 17 cases (5, *Candida glabrata*; 5, other species; all but 1178 received infliximab), inflammatory bowel disease in 5 cases, and rheumatoid arthritis in 2 cases. The site of infection was reported in 8 cases and included bloodstream or endovascular infection (n=3), abscess (n=1), and oropharyngeal infection or esophagitis (n=4). Final outcome data were available for only 8 patients, and 4 (50%) of them died: 2 with inflammatory bowel disease, 1 with rheumatoid arthritis, and 1 with GVHD. Thus, cases of minor infections such as candida vaginosis do not appear to have been included in this study. Aspergillosis: 64 cases of aspergillosis associated with the use of TNFIs were identified—48 (75%) were associated with IFX, 14 (22%) with ETN, and 2 (3%) with ADA. All but one of the patients were exposed to other immunosuppressant medications, such as corticosteroids or methotrexate.

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- Cryptococcus Infections: 28 cases of Cryptococcus infection associated with TNFIs were identified—17 (61%) were associated with IFX, 10 (36%) with ETN, and 1 (3%) with ADA. Of 8 patients with data available for review, 6 with rheumatoid arthritis had received IFX after a median of 3 infusions (interquartile range (IQR) 3-10).
- There were 3 tinea corporis and 3 pityriasis versicolor cases of patients receiving anti-TNF-[alpha] inhibitors, in which 13 of the 35 had new onset of cutaneous infections. Three patients had received IFX (range of infusions, 2-7; all for ankylosing spondylitis), 1 ETN (for rheumatoid arthritis), and 2 ADA (range of infusions, 26-36; both for rheumatoid arthritis).
- Coccidioidomycosis: 29 cases were identified. 27 (93%) were associated with IFX and 2 (7%) were associated with ETN. All patients were concomitantly taking either corticosteroids or MTX. All had pneumonia and 4 had evidence of disseminated infection.
- Of the entire group of 281 patients who developed fungal infection in association with TNF-[alpha] blockade, 226 (80%) had received IFX, 44 (16%) received ETN, and 11 (4%) received ADA.
- One hundred and two of the 104 (98%) patients for whom data were available received at least 1 other immunomodulating medication (e.g., corticosteroids, MTX) during the course of the fungal infection. Pneumonia was the most common pattern of infection.

Of the 90 (32%) of 281 cases for which outcome information was available, 29 fatalities (32%) were recorded. Because this study is based on anecdotal reporting, it is not possible to reliably estimate comparative OI rates.

In a review of open-label extension studies of RCTs, which also included results from the parent trials of ETN (Weinblatt 10), the authors reported the incidence of OIs. The definition of OI was based on that provided for patients with human immunodeficiency virus by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wonder online database (1992).

- A total of 194 ERA and 217 LRA patients were treated with 25 mg ETN twice weekly over 10 years.
- Five opportunistic infections were reported in 1,272 patients (0.39% over the study period): 1 Candida septicemia, 1 herpes zoster, 1 atypical mycobacterium infection, 1 meningoencephalitis (unspecified) and 1 fungal sepsis (unspecified).

In summary although reliable evidence from RCTs regarding the comparative rates of OIs in patients with RA, psoriasis and PsA is lacking, indirect but consistent RCT evidence regarding differences in rates of serious infections and TB in patients treated with IFX, ADA and ETN together with consistent observational studies reporting differences in rates for serious infections and TB suggest that patients treated with ETN may be at lower risk of OIs than patients treated with IFX and possibly with ADA.

7a4. Fungal and Non-TB Opportunistic Infections Associated With CZP, GLN, and UST

We found no useful evidence to determine the relative risk of fungal and non-TB opportunistic infections in patients treated with CZP, GLN or UST.

In summary, the evidence is inconclusive, but suggestive that the risk of fungal and non-TB opportunistic infections may be higher in patients treated with monoclonal antibody therapy than with ETN.

7b. MALIGNANCY (Tables 7a-7b)

Some individual RCTs (Maini 99, Klareskog 04, Smolen 07, Keystone 08a) and meta-analyses (Bongartz 06, Bongartz 09) have reported higher rates of malignancy in RA patients receiving biologic agents compared to patients receiving placebo with or without MTX. A meta-analysis that included 9 trials (Bongartz 06) totaling 3,493 patients treated with IFX or ADA and 1,512 patients who received placebo, reported a statistically significant increased risk with the monoclonal antibodies with a pooled odds ratio for malignancy of 3.3 (95% CI 1.2 to 9.1) compared to placebo with or without MTX. The NNH was estimated to be 154 (95% CI 91 to 500) (Table 7a).

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A meta-analysis comparing 2,244 RA patients who received ETN (contributing 2484 person-years of follow-up) and 1,072 who received control therapy (1,051 person-years) found malignancies in 26 patients in the ETN group (incidence rate 10.47/1000 person-years) and 7 patients in the placebo group with or without MTX (in one study the comparison group was placebo plus sulfasalazine) (IR 6.66/1000 person-years) with a hazard ratio of 1.84 (95% CI, 0.79 to 4.28) for the ETN group compared with the control group (Bongartz 09) (Table 7a).

In a meta-analysis that included 21 trials (8 ADA trials totaling 1,524 patients, 7 IFX trials totaling 1,116 patients and 6 ETN trials totaling 1,029 patients) malignancy rates were not statistically higher in patients treated with standard doses of the three biologic agent groups than in the placebo groups with or without MTX. The relative risks for the three agents assessed individually were 0.55 (95% CI 0.14 to 2.11) for ADA, 1.64 (95% CI 0.30 to 8.89) for IFX and 0.98 (95% CI 0.32 to 3.02) for ETN (Wiens 10) (Table 7a).

In an earlier meta-analysis of 13 trials totaling 7,087 RA patients treated with IFX, ETN and ADA, malignancy rates were also not statistically different from placebo with or without MTX. The incidence of malignancy was less than 0.5% in all groups. The relative risks for the three agents were 1.42 (95% CI 1.01 to 1.99) for ADA, 2.6 (95% CI 0.6 to 11.6) for IFX and 1.9 (95% CI 0.6 to 5.7) for ETN (Alonso-Ruiz 08) (Table 7a).

In a meta-analysis of several populations (19,041 patients exposed to ADA in 36 global clinical trials in RA, PsA, ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis), the overall malignancy rates for ADA-treated patients were as expected for the general population. Standardized incidence rates were calculated for malignancies using national and state-specific databases. The rate of malignancies (excluding lymphoma) per 100 patient-years was 0.76 in patients being treated for RA, 0.49 in patients with psoriasis and 0.30 in patients being treated for psoriatic arthritis (Burmester 09).

Table 7a. Risk of Malignancy in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With IFX, ADA, ETN—Results From 5 Meta-Analyses

Reference	Agents and Population (N)	Outcomes
Bongartz 06	IFX or ADA in RA versus Placebo with or without MTX (1,512)	OR 3.3 (95% CI 1.2 to 9.1) ARI 0.65 (95% CI 0.2 to 1.1) 6 to 12 mos NNH 154 (95% CI 91 to 500) 6 to 12 mos
Bongartz 09	ETN versus Placebo with or without traditional DMARD (3,316)	IR 10.47/1000 person years ETN group (26 malignancies) IR 1.84/1000 person years control group (7 malignancies)
Wiens 10	IFX, ADA, ETN in RA versus Placebo with or without MTX (2,145)	IFX: RR 1.64 (95% CI 0.30 to 8.89) ADA: RR 0.55 (95% CI 0.14 to 2.11) ETN: RR 0.98 (95% CI 0.32 to 3.02)
Alonso-Ruiz 08	IFX, ADA, ETN in RA versus Placebo with or without MTX (7,087)	IFX: RR 2.6 (95% CI 0.6 to 11.6) ADA: RR 1.42 (95% CI 1.01 to 1.99) ETN: RR 1.9 (95% CI 0.6 to 5.7)
Burmester 09	ADA in RA, PsA, AS, Crohn's disease versus general population (19,041)	Rate of malignancy per 100 patient years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.76 in RA • 0.49 in psoriasis • 0.30 in PsA

Observational Studies of Malignancy in RA Patients Treated with IFX, ADA and ETN

A recent systematic review (Nam 10) comparing malignancy rates for RA patients using general population data and those for RA patients not receiving biologic agents as the controls reported no increased malignancy risk with IFX, ADA and ETN compared with traditional DMARDs. The review summarized 2 registry-based studies reporting malignancy rates for ETN (Klareskog 08) and ADA (Burmester 08). These studies reported no statistically significant increase in malignancies compared to general population data derived from SEER data (data from US National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results database). Respective standardized incidence ratios

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(SIR) and 95% CIs for ETN (N=2,054) and ADA (N=3,421) were 0.98 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.12) and 0.89 (95% CI 0.68 to 1.13)

A previous registry study (Wolfe 07) reported odds ratios for malignancy in 13,001 RA patients during approximately 49,000 patient-years of observation in the years 1998–2005 using population malignancy rates from the SEER database for comparison (Table 7b). Odds ratios for individual agents compared to US population cancer rates (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) were IFX OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3), P=0.820; ADA OR 0.7 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6), P=0.393; ETN OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3), P=0.962.

Table 7b. Risk of Malignancy Associated With IFX, ADA, ETN—Registry Studies of RA Patients

Reference	Agents and Population (N) SEER Data	Outcomes [^]
Burmester 08	ADA in RA versus general population (3421)	ADA: SIR 0.89 (95% CI 0.69 to 1.13)
Klareskog 08	ETN versus general population (2054)	ETN: SIR 0.98 (95% CI 0.69 to 1.12)
Wolfe 07	IFX, ADA, ETN versus general population (13,001)	IFX: OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3) ADA: OR 0.7 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6) ETN: OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3)

[^]SIR: standardized incidence rate with US population used as comparator; OR: odds ratio

RCTs of Malignancy in RA Patients Treated with GLM, CZP and UST

In a recent review that included 6 RCTs totaling 1,404 patients (Emery 09, Kavanaugh 09, Kay 08, Keystone 08b, Kremer 10, Smolen 08), investigators provided estimates of malignancy risk in patients receiving GLM (Zidi 10). The incidence of lung adenocarcinoma was 3.1%, basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma 1%, breast, ovarian and bladder carcinoma 0.8% and lung cancer and prostate cancer 0.7%. The incidence of malignancy in the trials was not statistically different from placebo groups with or without methotrexate. The authors state that there is “no major and evident risk” of malignancy associated with GLM in the current scientific literature. A previous Cochrane review, based on 4 of the same studies, concluded that there was no difference in malignancy rates between GLM and placebo (Singh 10).

We found three RCTs reporting safety results for CZP in patients with RA. One 6-month trial of 220 patients reported no cases of cancer in either group (Fleischmann 09). A second 12-month trial of 982 patients reported 11 cases of cancer in the CZP group (2.3 per 100 patient-years) and 1 case in the placebo + MTX group (1.1 per 100 patient-years) (Keystone 08a). A third 6-month trial of 619 patients reported 1 case of malignant melanoma in the placebo + MTX group and 2 in the CZP group.

Four RCTs have reported rates of malignancy in trials of UST. Three of the trials compared UST to placebo (Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07) and one trial compared UST to ETN (Griffiths 10). In all four trials, malignancy rates were not statistically different from placebo with or without MTX and occurred in less than 1% of patients.

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RA: Observational Studies Evaluating Malignancy in Patients Treated with GLM, CZP and UST

We found no registry or observational studies reporting useful evidence regarding the relative risk of malignancy in RA patients receiving GLM, CZP or UST.

Psoriasis and PsA: RCTs Evaluating The Risk of Malignancy in Patients Treated with ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX and UST

We found no RCTs, registry or observational studies reporting useful evidence regarding the relative risk of malignancy in psoriasis in patients receiving ADA, ETN, IFX or UST. CZP and GLM are not FDA-approved for the treatment of psoriasis. We found no useful evidence regarding relative malignancy rates in psoriatic arthritis patients receiving ADA, ETN, GLM, IFX or UST. One RCT reporting safety data on 627 patients found a 1.9% malignancy rate in patients receiving IFX compared to no malignancies in the placebo group (Menter 06). CZP is not FDA-approved for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis.

7c. LYMPHOMA (Table 8-9)

RA: Meta-analyses and RCTs Evaluating Lymphoma in Patients Treated with ADA, ETN and IFX

A recent meta-analysis reported the number of lymphomas per 100 patient-years in patients treated with ADA. The rate in RA (19 trials) was 0.12 lymphomas per 100 PT YR (N=12,345). The rate in PsA (3 trials) was 0.20 per 100 PT YR (N=837). The rate in psoriasis (5 trials) was 0 (N=1819). The standardized incidence ratio (SIR) for RA was 2.98 (95% CI 1.89 to 4.47). Expected occurrences for SIR calculations are based on data from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database (1993–2001) and from an NCI survey of eight locations in the USA (1977-1978) (Burmester 09) (Table 8).

Ten cases of lymphoma were reported in a meta-analysis of 9 RCTs totaling 3,493 patients receiving IFX or ADA for treatment of RA. Six additional cases were detected in follow-up after the trials ended (Bongartz 06). The calculated incidence for the trials was 0.29% (mean duration of trials 34 weeks).

Table 8. Risk of Lymphoma in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With IFX, ADA—Results From 2 Meta-Analyses (Burmester 09, Bongartz 06)

Burmester 09 (19 RA Trials) N=12,345		
Agent	Number Lymphomas per 100 PT YR	SIR (Comparator SEER and NCI data)
ADA in RA (19 trials, N=12,345)	0.12	2.98 (95% CI 1.89 to 4.47)
ADA in PsA (3 trials, N=837)	0.20	Not reported
ADA in psoriasis (5 trials, N=1819)	0	Not reported
Bongartz 06 (9 RA Trials) N=3493		
Agent	Number of Cases	Incidence (Up to 34 Weeks)
IFX or ADA	10 per 3493 Patients	0.29%

RA and Psoriasis Patients: Meta-analyses and RCTs of Lymphoma in Patients Treated with GLM, CZP and UST

In a recent review that included 6 RCTs totaling 1,404 patients (Emery 09, Kavanaugh 09, Kay 08, Keystone 08b, Kremer 10, Smolen 08), investigators reported an incidence of lymphoma in patients treated with GLM (5 trials in RA, 1 trial in PsA) of 0.6% (Zidi 10).

In a 6-month trial of 220 patients with RA comparing CZP with MTX to placebo with MTX, there were no cases of lymphoma in either group (Fleischmann 09). In a 12-month trial of 982 patients with RA comparing CZP with MTX to placebo with MTX, 1 case of lymphoma occurred in the CZP group and no cases occurred in the placebo group (Keystone 08a). In a 6-month trial of 619 patients with RA comparing CZP with MTX to placebo with MTX, 1 case of lymphoma occurred in the CZP group and no cases occurred in the placebo group (Smolen 09).

In 4 RCTs of psoriasis patients totaling 3,219 patients receiving UST, there were no cases of lymphoma (Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07, Griffiths 10).

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RA: Observational Studies Evaluating Lymphoma in Patients Treated with ADA, ETN and IFX

In the French RATIO registry cohort and case-control study of patients receiving anti-TNF agents without restriction for underlying disease, the standardized incidence ratios (French population was used for comparison) in the cohorts receiving ADA or IFX were higher than for those treated with ETN (Mariette 10). Standardized incidence ratio (SIR) were 4.1 (95% CI 2.3 to 7.1) and 3.6 (95% CI 2.3 to 5.6) for ADA and IFX compared to 0.9 (95% CI 0.4 to 1.8) for ETN. The exposure to ADA or IFX versus ETN was found to be an independent risk factor for lymphoma in the included case-control study. The odds ratios compared to ETN were 4.7 (95% CI 1.3 to 17.7) for ADA and 4.1 (95% CI 1.4 to 12.5) for IFX. The authors concluded that the risk of lymphoma is higher with monoclonal-antibody therapy than with soluble-receptor therapy. Previous observational cohort studies (e.g., Wolfe 07a, Wolfe 07b, Askling 09 and Wolfe 04) failed to demonstrate a higher risk of lymphoma in patients receiving ADA or IFX. The lack of difference may be due to insufficient power in the previous studies.

**Table 9. Risk of Lymphoma by Biologic Agent French RATIO Registry Study*
Standardized Incidence Ratios (SIR) of IFX, ADA and Odds Ratio of IFX and ADA Versus ETN
(Mariette 10)**

Agent	N	SIR (95% CI) with French Population as Reference	Odds Ratio of Agent Compared to ETN
IFX		3.6 (95% CI 2.3 to 5.6)	4.1 (95% CI 1.4 to 12.5)
ADA		4.1 (95% CI 2.3 to 7.1)	4.7 (95% CI 1.3 to 17.7)
ETN		0.9 (95% CI 0.4 to 1.8)	Reference agent
All Anti-TNF		12.2 (9.7 to 15.5)	Not reported

*Population French subjects without restriction for underlying disease

RA, Psoriasis and PsA: Observational Studies Evaluating Lymphoma in Patients Treated with GLM, CZP and UST

We found no or observational studies reporting useful lymphoma evidence for GLM, CZP or UST.

In summary, although the evidence is inconclusive, observational studies suggest there may be an increased risk of lymphoma in some patients treated with the monoclonal antibodies, IFX and ADA, compared to patients treated with ETN (LOE: inconclusive). The evidence is insufficient to determine the relative risk for lymphoma in patients receiving CZP, GLM or UST compared to each other and to other agents for the treatment of RA, psoriasis and PsA (LOE: inconclusive)

7d. WITHDRAWAL FROM CLINICAL TRIALS AND WITHDRAWAL DUE TO ADVERSE EVENTS (Table 10)

RA: Meta-analyses Evaluating Withdrawals in RA Patients Receiving ADA, IFX and ETN

Four meta-analyses (Singh 11, Wiens 10, Singh 09, Alonso-Ruiz 08) provide signals suggestive that the risk of withdrawing from trials due to adverse events is higher for IFX and ADA compared to placebo. A recent meta-analysis (Wiens 10) included 21 trials: 8 ADA trials, 7 IFX trials and 6 ETN trials. For IFX, the relative risk (RR) for withdrawing from the study due to adverse events compared to controls was 2.05 (95% CI 1.33 to 3.16). For ADA, the RR was 1.56 (95% CI 1.04 to 2.35). For ETN, the RR was 0.86 (95% CI 0.63 to 1.16). A Cochrane meta-analysis (Singh 09) included 8 ADA trials (2944 subjects with safety evaluations), 4 ETN trials (1248 subjects with safety evaluations) and 4 IFX trials (835 subjects with safety evaluations). ADA was more likely to lead to withdrawals compared to ETN, with a ratio of OR of 1.89 (95% CI 1.18 to 3.04), $P = 0.009$. ETN was less likely than IFX to result in withdrawals than placebo with a ratio of odds ratios of 0.37 (95% CI 0.19 to 0.70), $P = 0.002$, compared to controls. The Cochrane investigators estimated the NNH (withdrawal due to adverse event) and 95% confidence interval (CI) compared to placebo as follows (studies were of 6 to 12 months duration): 39 (95% CI 19 to 162) for ADA and 18 (95% CI 8 to 72) for IFX. The NNH for ETN was not significant. In updated safety meta-analysis, ADA, ETN and GLM were all significantly less likely than IFX to result in withdrawals (Singh 11). Compared to IFX, ADA (OR 0.50 (95% CI 0.32 to 0.78)), ETN (OR 0.63 (95% CI 0.41 to 0.95)) and GLM (OR 0.55 (95% CI 0.30 to 0.99)) were associated with significantly fewer withdrawals. Odds ratios for withdrawals for the three agents compared to controls were 1.02 (95% CI 0.70 to 1.48), $N = 7622$ (22 studies) for ADA, 1.28 (95% CI 0.92 to 1.78), $N = 8113$ (33

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studies) for ETN and 2.04 (95% CI 1.43 to 2.91), N=7559 (33 studies) for IFX. The data for GLM were drawn from 7 trials (5 trials in patients with RA, 1 trial in patients with ankylosing spondylitis and 1 trial in patients with PsA. In an earlier meta-analysis (Alonso-Ruiz 08), which included 13 trials and 7,087 subjects, patients receiving IFX were more likely to drop out because of side effects than controls, with a number-needed-to-harm (NNH) of 24. The authors did not consider differences in lengths of the trials in calculating NNHs. Patients receiving ADA were also more likely than controls to drop out because of side effects (NNH 47). Patients receiving ETN were less likely than controls to drop out because of side effects (NNH favoring ETN 26).

Table 10. Risk of Withdrawal by Biologic Agent
4 Meta-analyses (Singh 11, Wiens 10, Singh 09, Alonso-Ruiz 08)

Reference	Agents and Population (N)	Outcomes
Singh 11	ADA Compared to IFX ETN Compared to IFX GLM Compared to IFX	OR of Compared Agents (Mean Duration 6 months) 0.5 (95% CI 0.32 to 0.78) 0.63 (95% CI 0.41 to 0.950) 0.55 (95% CI 0.30 to 0.99)
Singh 11	IFX Compared to Control ADA Compared to Control ETN Compared to Control	OR of Agents Compared to Controls 2.04 (95% CI 1.43 to 2.91)(N=7559 (33 studies) • Risk with IFX: 181 per 1000 (95% CI 134 to 240) • Risk with Comparator: 98 per 1000 1.02 (95% CI 0.70 to 1.48) N=7622 (22 studies) 1.28 (95% CI 0.92 o 1.78) N= 8113 (33 studies)
Wiens 10	IFX (7 trials) ADA (8 trials) ETN (6 trials)	RR of Withdrawal Due To Adverse Events Compared to Controls 2.05 (95% CI 1.33 to 3.16) 1.56 (95% CI 1.04 to 2.35) 0.86 (95% CI 0.63 to 1.16).
Singh 09	ADA Compared to ETN ETN Compared to IFX	OR of Compared Agents (6 to 12 Months) 1.89 (95% CI 1.18 to 3.04), P = 0.009 0.37 (95% CI 0.19 to 0.70), P = 0.002
Singh 09	ADA (8 trials) IFX (4 trials) ETN (4 trials)	NNH (Withdrawal due to AE Versus Controls) 39 (95% CI 19 to 162) 18 (95% CI 8 to 72) NS
Alonso-Ruiz 08	13 Trials ADA IFX ETN	NNH (Withdrawal due to AE Versus Controls) 47 24 26

RA: Observational Studies Evaluating Withdrawals in Patients Receiving ADA, IFX and ETN (Table 11)

Two registry studies (Hetland 09, Marchesoni 09) reported lower withdrawal rates with ETN than with ADA or IFX consistent with the 3 meta-analyses. A Danish registry study reported the comparative risk for drug withdrawal of IFX, ADA and ETN. The risk for withdrawal, compared to ETN, was 1.98 for IFX (95% CI 1.63 to 2.40), 1.35 for IFX versus ADA (95% CI 1.15 to 1.58), and 1.47 for ADA versus ETN (95% CI 1.20 to 1.80) (Hetland 09). A study using data from an Italian registry (Marchesoni 09) reported that, after 36 months, the likelihood of continuing on the drug (referred to as "survival") on ETN was 62.5% which was significantly higher than the likelihood of survival on IFX (49.1%) or ADA (53.6%). The risk of ETN discontinuation was lower than for the other two agents beginning at

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6 months and was 37.5% by month 36, when the risk of discontinuing ADA was 46.4% and the risk of discontinuing IFX was 50.9% (P = 0.027).

**Table 11. Risk of Withdrawal by Biologic Agent
Registry Studies (Hetland 09, Marchesoni 09)**

Reference	Agents	Outcomes
Hetland 07	IFX Compared to ETN	RR of Withdrawal 1.98 (95% CI 1.63 to 2.40)
	IFX Compared to ADA	1.35 (95% CI 1.15 to 1.58)
	ADA Compared to ETN	1.47 (95% CI 1.20 to 1.80)
Marchesoni 09	36 Months Study	Likelihood of Continuing Agent ("Survival")
	ETN	62.5%*
	ADA	53.6%
	IFX	49.1%

*P<0.05 for difference between ETN and other agents

RA: RCTs Evaluating Withdrawals in Patients Receiving CZP

The evidence is inconclusive for determining the relative risk of withdrawal in RA patients receiving CZP compared to placebo, non-biologic DMARDs or other biologic agents. We found 3 relevant trials totaling 1,785 patients, and in all 3 trials there were potential weak signals of increased withdrawal rates (approximately 2% higher) for patients taking CZP compared to placebo with or without MTX. The trials were potentially underpowered to detect statistically significant differences. (Fleischmann 09, Keystone 08a, Smolen 09).

Psoriasis: Meta-analyses Evaluating Withdrawals in Patients Receiving ADA, IFX and ETN

The evidence is inconclusive for risk of withdrawals in psoriasis patients receiving ADA, IFX and ETN. A meta-analysis comparing withdrawals for any reason in trials of IFX, ADA and ETN (Schmitt 08) reported a lower average monthly withdrawal rate for patients receiving ETN than for patients receiving IFX or ADA. The average incidence of monthly withdrawals in patients receiving ADA (N=814) was 2.9% (CIs not provided). The respective rate for IFX (N= 711) was 2.5% (95% CI 1.8 to 3.0). The rate for patients receiving ETN 25 mg twice weekly (N=253) was 1.3% (95% CI 1.0 to 2.5) and for patients receiving 50mg twice weekly (N=505) was 0.6% (95% CI 0.6 to 0.8).

RA and PsA: RCTs Evaluating Withdrawals in Patients Receiving GLM

The evidence is inconclusive for risk of withdrawals in RA and PsA patients receiving GLM. In a meta-analysis of safety data (Singh 10) from 1,231 RA patients from 4 RCTS (Emery 09, Kay 08, Keystone 08b [recorded as Keystone 09 in Singh 10]), Smolen 09), investigators reported similar rates for withdrawals due to adverse events in the GLM group and placebo (with or without MTX) group. The odds ratio for withdrawals due to adverse events in GLM-treated RA patients was 0.80 (95% CI 0.26 to 2.42) compared to placebo. Two recent RCTs (Keystone 10, Kremer 10), totaling 1087 patients, did not report withdrawals due to adverse events, but severe adverse event rates were slightly higher in the GLM groups than in the placebo with MTX group with severe adverse events rates per year of 6% and 4.2% (P-values not reported) in the two GLM groups and 3.7% in the placebo group (Keystone 10). The severe adverse event rates in another trial were 1.9% and 0.8% in the combined GLM group and placebo group (Kremer 10). A third RCT (Kavanaugh 09), which included 405 PsA patients, reported a higher rate of serious adverse events (P-values not reported) in the placebo group (6%) than in the combined GLM groups (2%).

Psoriasis: RCTs Evaluating Withdrawals in Patients Receiving UST

The evidence is inconclusive for risk of withdrawals in psoriasis patients receiving UST. We found 4 RCTs with published safety data addressing patient withdrawals (Krueger 07, Papp 08, Leonardi 08, Griffiths 10). The 4 trials included 3,219 patients with moderate to severe psoriasis. In the first 12 weeks of a 76-week trial, withdrawals due to adverse events occurred in 2.4% of patients in the placebo group, 0.4 % in the 45 mg UST group and 1.6% in the 90mg UST group (P-values not reported) (Leonardi 08). In a 40-week trial (Papp 08,) similar rates of withdrawals occurred in all groups. In the third trial of 320 patients with a mean follow-up of 19 weeks (Krueger 07), there were also similar withdrawal rates in the groups. In the fourth trial of 903 patients (Griffiths 10)

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comparing UST 45mg and 90mg to ETN 50mg twice weekly (64 weeks of safety data), withdrawals were also similar in the three groups: 1.9%, 1.2% and 2.3% respectively (P-values not reported).

PsA: Meta-analyses and RCTs Evaluating Withdrawals in Patients Receiving ADA, IFX and ETN (Table 12)

The evidence is inconclusive for risk of withdrawals in PsA patients receiving ADA, IFX and ETN (Saad 08). A meta-analysis of 5 RCTs comparing risk of withdrawal in patients receiving the 3 agents to placebo found that the risk of withdrawal was similar with the 3 agents, but was lowest with ETN (Table 12). In an RCT reporting withdrawals up to week 98 in PsA patients receiving IFX, the withdrawal rate due to AEs was 6.4% in the ADA group (Antoni 08). In a 24-week trial, the withdrawal rate for ADA was 4% (Mease 08). The withdrawal rate for UST in a 24-week trial was 3% and in another 36-week trial was 7.5% (Gottlieb 09). In a 12-week trial comparing severe AEs in ETN 50 mg twice weekly to 25mg twice weekly, the respective rates were 4% and 2.9%.

**Table 12. Risk of Withdrawal in PsA Relative Risks of Withdrawal in PsA Patients Associated With ADA, IFX and ETN Compared to Placebo
Meta-analysis of 5 Trials (Saad 08)**

Withdrawal For Any Reason	Withdrawals Due To AEs
IFX: 1.50 (95% CI 0.26 to 8.61)	IFX: 2.90 (95% CI 0.60 to 13.96)
ADA: 0.83 (95% CI 0.39 to 1.74)	ADA: 1.98 (95% CI 0.35 to 11.28)
ETN: 0.24 (95% CI 0.12 to 0.49)	ETN: 1.03 (95% CI 0.07 to 16.24)

In summary, the evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies suggests that patients with RA, psoriasis and PsA receiving IFX or ADA are at increased risk of withdrawing from clinical trials due to adverse events or other reasons compared to patients receiving (ETN) or placebo with or without traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs). We estimate that an additional 5 to 6 patients out of 100 treated with IFX and an additional 2 to 3 patients treated with ADA will withdraw compared to ETN. Based on recent RCT data (Singh 11) it also appears that ADA, ETN and GLM are significantly less likely than IFX to result in withdrawals due to adverse events. The evidence regarding the relative risk of withdrawing from studies in patients treated with CZP, GLM and UST compared to each other or to other antirheumatic agents is inconclusive.

7e. MORTALITY (Table 13a-14)

RA: Systematic Reviews and RCTs Evaluating Risk of Mortality with ADA, IFX and ETN

In a recent systematic review and meta-analysis of 21 randomized, placebo controlled trials (8 ADA trials, 7 IFX trials, 6 ETN trials) of adults with rheumatoid arthritis, mortality rates in patients receiving the 3 biologic agent groups (mean duration of 4 years) were not statistically different from controls (placebo with or without MTX) (Wiens 10).

**Table 13a. Relative Risk Of Mortality in RA Patients Receiving ADA, ETN and IFX Compared To Controls (Placebo With Or Without MTX)
Meta-analysis (Wiens 10)**

Drug	N	Relative Risk	P-Value
ADA	2428	2.52 (95% CI 0.72 to 8.86)	0.15
ETN	1178	1.54 (95% CI 0.19 to 12.48)	0.68
IFX	1042	0.71 (95% CI 0.11 to 4.85)	0.73

In another recent meta-analysis of RA patients (19 trials) treated with ADA, the standardized mortality ratio was less than one, i.e., the number of deaths observed during treatment with adalimumab was less than what would be expected in the general population. The standardized mortality ratio (SMR), the ratio of observed deaths to expected deaths, for each disease was calculated using the expected rates based on country-specific age and sex matched general population data from the World Health Organization to 2002. (Burmester 09).

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In a previous meta-analysis that included 13 trials in RA patients receiving IFX, ADA and ETN, mortality rates in patients receiving the 3 drugs were not statistically different from controls (placebo with or without MTX) (Alonso-Ruiz 08).

Table 13b. Relative Risk of Mortality in RA Patients Receiving ADA, ETN, IFX Compared To Controls – Meta-analysis (Placebo With Or Without MTX) (Alonso-Ruiz 08)

Drug	Events/Total DMARD PTS	Events/Total Control PTS	Relative Risk (95% CI)	I ²
ADA	10/1922	3/947	1.3 (0.4 to 4.7)	0
ETN	4/1082	1/555	1.5 (0.2 to 9.5)	0
IFX	9/1822	5/759	0.5 (0.2 to 1.4)	0

RA: Observational Studies Reporting Mortality Rates in RA Patients Treated with IFX, ADA and ETN

In a recent registry study utilizing data from participants in the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR) (Lunt 10), after adjusting for baseline differences, investigators found no overall difference in mortality rates between IFX, ADA and ETN and the non-biologic DMARD cohort (weighted HR 0.86 (95% CI 0.64 to 1.16))(Table 14). Comparative mortality data for the three agents was not provided. 12,672 patients with RA were recruited to the anti-TNF cohort (4,420 ETN, 4,161 IFX, 4,091 ADA). The findings in this study are in contrast to 2 earlier registry studies reviewed by Nam et al. (see Nam 10). In the earlier registry studies, investigators reported decreased mortality rates in patients receiving anti-TNF therapy compared to patients receiving traditional DMARDs. Both the BIOBADASER study in Spain (Carmona 07) and a Swedish study (Jacobsson 05) from the South Swedish Arthritis Treatment Group (SSATG), found a substantial reduction in mortality in anti-TNF treated patients compared to those receiving standard DMARD therapy. There were 20 deaths in the Spanish study and 51 deaths in the Swedish study. Neither previous study provided comparative mortality data for the three agents.

Table 14. Relative Risk of Mortality in RA Patients Receiving ADA, ETN, IFX Compared To Controls (Non-biologic DMARDs) Registry Studies (Lunt 10, Carmona 07, Jacobsson 05)

Reference	Agents	Mortality Compared to PTs Receiving Non-biologic Agents
Lunt 10 British Registry	ADA (N=4091) ETN (N=4420) IFX (N=4161)	No overall difference in mortality rates between the biologic agent and the non-biologic DMARD cohort: HR 0.86 (95% CI 0.64 to 1.16)
Carmona 07 Spanish Registry	Not specified	Mortality Rate Ratio in RA Pts Receiving Biologic Agents Versus RA Pts Receiving Non-biologic DMARDs: 0.32 (95% CI 0.20 to 0.53)
Jacobsson 05 Swedish Registry	ETN or IFX	3 deaths (2 CVD, one lymphoma) in patients receiving biologic agents and 29 deaths (12 CVD) in those not receiving biologic agents

RA, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Systematic Reviews, RCTs and Observational Studies Evaluating Risk of Mortality In Patients Receiving ADA, IFX, ETN, GLM, CZP and UST

In a systematic review and meta-analysis that included 19,041 patients exposed to ADA in 36 global clinical trials in RA, PsA, ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis, standardized mortality rates (SMR) were calculated for each disease using data from the World Health Organization for estimating risk in the general population. The standardized mortality ratio was 1.07 (95% CI 0.75 to 1.49), with 35 deaths observed compared with 32.6 deaths expected in the general population (Burmester 09).

In a recent Cochrane review of 4 RCTs which included 1,231 RA patients treated with GLM and 483 patients treated with placebo (with or without MTX), no significant mortality differences were noted between GLM and the placebo groups (Singh 10). We found no RCTs reporting useful mortality data for GLM in PsA.

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Several RCTs have reported increased mortality in RA patients taking CZP compared to placebo groups (with or without MTX) (Keystone 08a, Smolen 09), but the numbers were small. We found no systematic review or meta-analyses reporting mortality rates for CZP.

We found no RCTS, systematic reviews or observational studies reporting useful mortality data in RA, psoriasis or PsA for UST.

In summary, the evidence from randomized, controlled trials and observational studies is insufficient to determine the relative risks of mortality in patients with RA, psoriasis or PsA who receive ADA, CZP, ETN, GLM, IFX or UST. The evidence suggests that RA patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX are not at increased risk for mortality compared to patients taking synthetic DMARDs. Large, high quality studies with extensive follow-up periods are needed in order to accurately determine the relative risk of mortality in patients receiving these agents.

7f. DEMYELINATING DISEASE (Tables 15a-15b)

RA: RCTs and Observational Studies Evaluating Risk of Demyelinating Disease in Patients Receiving ADA, IFX, ETN, CZP, GLM and UST

In a recent review (Dharamsi 09), investigators sought risk data from 3 general types of study design—controlled and open-label clinical trials, cohort studies and post-marketing surveillance database studies of studies that included RA patients receiving ADA, IFX and ETN. Analysis of adverse events from cohort studies was limited to those that compared a cohort of patients treated with TNF inhibitors to a cohort of general patients or, preferably, patients with RA not treated with TNF inhibitors, with at least 300 patients per group. If any study did not report exposure time in patient-years, attempts were made to contact the authors, and if the information could not be obtained, the study was excluded. One exception to this rule was for post-marketing surveillance data on demyelinating disease with IFX, where 1 year of exposure time was assumed. The control groups used varied depending on the study design. The investigators used RA rates as the control cohort assuming similar rates to the general population. For clinical trials and post-marketing surveillance studies, the control group was patients with RA in the general population and, when data were available, those known to have been unexposed to TNF inhibitors. The relative risk of demyelinating disease derived from clinical trials is higher than for relative risks derived from post-marketing surveillance studies (Table 15b) but 95% CIs were not provided. Precise estimates of the risk of demyelinating disease with the agents of interest is not possible. There is insufficient evidence to determine the comparative risk of the agents of interest (LOE: inconclusive).

Table 15a. Relative Risk Of Demyelinating Disease In Controlled And Open-label Clinical Trials of RA Patients Receiving IFX, ADA and ETN (Dharamsi 09)

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000 (Actual Cases)	Control* Incidence/100,000	RR [^]
Magnano 04	IFX in RA	36.7 (2 of 5443)	8.0	4.6
Fleischmann 06	ETN in RA	92.6 (6 of 6479)	8.0	11.6
Schiff 06	ADA in RA	80 (10 of 12,506)	8.0	10.1

* From Incidence of Multiple Sclerosis and Optic Neuritis in US population

[^]95% CI not reported

Table 15b. Relative Risk Of Demyelinating Disease In Post-Marketing Surveillance Studies Of RA Patients Receiving IFX, ADA and ETN (Dharams 09)

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000 (Actual Cases)	Control* Incidence/100,000	RR [^]
Magnano 04	IFX in RA	2.54 to 5.49 (27 of 492,000)*	8.0	0.7
Magnano 04	ETN in RA	8.28	8.0	1.0

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Schiff 06	ADA in RA	~7.0 (of 78,522)	8.0	1.3
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* From Incidence of Multiple Sclerosis and Optic Neuritis in US population

^95% CI not reported

We found no systematic reviews, meta-analyses or registry studies reporting risk of demyelinating disease in patients receiving CZP. In an RCT of 220 patients randomized to CZP or placebo with MTX, there were no cases of demyelinating disease in either group (Fleischmann 09). Demyelinating disease was not reported in other RCTs of CZP (Keystone 08a, Smolen 09).

We found no systematic reviews, meta-analyses or registry studies reporting risk of demyelinating disease in psoriasis patients receiving UST. No cases were reported in published RCTs (Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07, Griffiths 10).

In summary, there is insufficient evidence to determine the relative risk of demyelinating disease for RA, psoriasis patients or patients with PsA treated with ADA, ETN, CZP, GLM, IFX or UST.

7g. INJECTION SITE REACTIONS AND INFUSION REACTIONS (Table 16)

The evidence regarding risk of injection site reactions and infusion reactions, as with other safety outcomes, is limited, and risk estimates vary greatly. The reason for the lack of preciseness in the estimates of effect may be due to numerous methodological issues such as heterogeneity of study designs, study duration, populations studied, inconsistent reporting and differences in definitions of infusion and injection site reactions.

RA, Psoriasis and PsA: Injection Site Reactions and Infusion Reactions in Patients Receiving The Agents of Interest (Table 16)

In a meta-analysis of 7 RCTs in RA patients, the crude incidence of infusion reactions in patients receiving IFX was 17.9% (Alonso-Ruiz 08). Details regarding severity were not provided. In a RCT of 249 patients with severe plaque psoriasis, the incidence of infusion reactions through week 30 in patients receiving IFX was 18% in patients receiving 3mg/kg and 22% in patients receiving 5mg/kg compared to 2% in the placebo group (Gottlieb 04). In this trial, infusion reactions were classified as mild (easily tolerated), moderate (discomfort that interferes with usual activity) or severe (significant impairment of function or incapacitation). The most common infusion reactions in patients treated with IFX were chills, headache, flushing, nausea, dyspnea, injection site infiltrations and taste perversion. The majority of infusion reactions were mild or moderate in severity. There were no serious or life-threatening infusion reactions. In a meta-analysis reporting infusion reaction rates (2 trials) in patients with PsA, infusion reactions occurred in 7.4% of patients receiving IFX (Saad 08).

The FDA labeling document states that, in RA patients, infusion reactions are approximately 20% in patients receiving IFX compared to 10% in patients receiving placebo. Infusion reactions associated with IFX appear to be mild (e.g., headache, dizziness, nausea, pruritus, chills or fever) in the majority of instances. However, severe acute reactions (e.g., reactions resembling anaphylactic conditions or associated with convulsions) have been reported in 0.5% to 3.7% of patients (Gartlehner 06).

In a recent meta-analysis of RA patients, the crude incidence of injection site reactions for ADA based on 7 RCTs was 17.5% (95% CI 7.1 to 27.9). The rate for ETN, based on 5 RCTs, was 22.4% (95% CI 8.5 to 36.3) (Thaler 09). In a meta-analysis of PsA patients, injection site reactions occurred in 5.2% of patients receiving ADA (2 trials) and 32% in patients receiving ETN (2 trials) (Saad 08). The FDA labeling documents for ADA and ETN state that, in placebo-controlled trials, 20% of patients treated with ADA developed injection site reactions (e.g., erythema and/or itching, pain or swelling), compared to 14% of patients receiving placebo and that, in rheumatologic indications, approximately 37% of patients treated with ETN developed injection site reactions (e.g., pain, itching or swelling) during the first 3 months of treatment.

RCTs reporting injection site reactions in RA patients receiving CZP have reported rates from 1.6% to 4.5% (Smolen 09, Keystone 08a, Fleischmann 09). The FDA labeling document does not provide CZP injection site data.

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RCTs have reported injection site reactions in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis patients treated with GLM from 5% to 20% (Keystone 10, Kavanaugh 09). The FDA labeling document states that, in controlled Phase 3 trials in RA, PsA and ankylosing spondylitis, 6% of the GLM-treated patients experienced injection site reactions compared with 2% of control-treated patients (16 weeks of trial data). The majority of the injection site reactions were mild, and the most frequent manifestation was injection site erythema.

RCTs assessing injection site reactions in psoriasis patients receiving UST have reported rates from less than 1% to 24.8% (Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07, Griffiths 10). The FDA labeling document states that, based on 2 trials, injection site erythema occurred in 2% of patients.

Table 16. Risk of Injection Site and Infusion Reactions in 6 Agents Included in This Review

Reference	Agent	Condition	Type of Reaction	Crude Incidence or Range
Saad 08 Meta-analysis	IFX	PsA	Infusion	7.4%
Alonso-Ruiz 08 Meta-analysis	IFX	RA	Infusion	17.9%
Gottlieb 04 RCT	IFX	Psoriasis	Infusion	18% to 22%
Thaler 09 Meta-analysis	ADA	RA	Injection	17.5% (95% CI 7.1 to 27.9)
Saad 08 Registry	ADA	PsA	Injection	5.2%
Thaler 09 Meta-analysis	ETN	RA	Injection	22.4% (95% CI 8.5 to 36.3)
Saad 08 Meta-analysis	ETN	PsA	Injection	32%
Smolen 09, Keystone 08a, Fleishman 09 RCTs	CZP	RA	Injection	1.6% to 4.5%
Keystone 10, Kavanaugh 09	GLM	Psoriasis and PsA	Injection	5% to 20%
Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07, Griffiths 10 RCTs	UST	Psoriasis	Injection	<1% to 24.8%

8. DISCUSSION

Making optimal decisions regarding therapeutic interventions requires knowledge about available options and the relative benefits and risks of each option together with other considerations such as patient preference, availability of agents, etc. This review provides a synthesis of evidence regarding six agents and important adverse events which should be considered when making treatment decisions in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. The review also demonstrates the need for additional safety studies to more precisely define the comparative safety of these agents used to treat patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

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In our review, we found consistent evidence from clinical trials and observational studies suggesting that there may be meaningful differences between ADA, ETN and IFX in some safety outcomes. Specifically, we found evidence that patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with ETN compared to ADA and IFX appear to be at lower risk for serious infections, tuberculosis, opportunistic infections and lymphoma. In addition, we found somewhat weaker evidence that patients treated with ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX may be at lower risk for serious infections than those receiving CZP. We found consistent evidence from RCTs and observational data that patients receiving ETN are at lower risk for withdrawals from clinical trials due to adverse events than patients receiving ADA and IFX. We found evidence from RCTs that patients receiving ADA and GLM may be at lower risk for withdrawal from clinical trials than patients receiving IFX.

There may be other important safety differences between CZP, GLM and UST and between these agents and other antirheumatic agents, but further research is required to define them.

As in all systematic reviews, our review has potential limitations. Available RCTs, meta-analyses and observational studies used to inform our evidence synthesis were not designed to directly compare available agents, and our findings were based on indirect comparisons. Indirect comparisons increase the risk of bias because of differences in study populations, study designs and study methodologies. Bias is likely when combining results from studies involving different populations with different co-morbidities, treatment histories and other prognostic variables, different medication dosages, co-interventions and other care experiences. In many clinical trials, safety outcomes are not pre-specified and, when evaluating multiple safety outcomes, some significant differences are likely to be due to chance. On the other hand, statistically non-significant differences between groups may be due to small study size and true differences may be found with larger studies. Other problems include inconsistent reporting of outcomes, switching of agents, different half-lives of agents, loss to follow-up and unblinded or biased assessments. It is possible that only observational studies of sufficient duration will be available to address some safety questions.

Observational studies and open-label phases of clinical trials are also at risk for bias. Differences in study populations may represent important confounders in observational studies. For example, RA patients receiving biologic agents may have had more active disease and more disability than patients receiving traditional DMARDs. Disease severity may be associated with the decision to prescribe a biologic agent. Thus, increased severity of disease in patients selected to receive biologic agents may result in increased reported mortality rates. It may be equally possible that clinicians choose to withhold biologic agents from patients with multiple co-morbidities due to concerns about adverse events. In this situation, mortality rates might be higher in patients not receiving biologic agents. Results of studies may also be biased because of differences in dosages, adherence, co-interventions, length of follow-up, attrition and assessment of outcomes. For example, in registry studies, physicians' decisions to switch treatments after patients experience an adverse event may affect the results reported later in the study because of resulting differences in the study population such as a decreased risk of experiencing an adverse outcome in the cohort over time. Other biases may also occur over time. For example, if adverse events are reported and recognized as potential risks by clinicians, increased awareness may result in changes in prescribing and future reporting of adverse events. Although investigators frequently try to adjust for differences between groups, it is not possible to adjust for unknown confounders in observational studies, and bias created by the multiple choices and contextual differences present in all observational studies cannot be eliminated.

Because of the possibility of confounding described above, we rated all studies as inconclusive for validity and clinical usefulness of safety data. We considered consistency of results across various populations, study designs and study methodologies in drawing our conclusions. For example, multiple meta-analyses in RA patients conducted by different authors, one meta-analysis conducted in patients with psoriasis and one meta-analysis conducted in patients with PsA have consistently reported lower withdrawal rates in patients treated with ETN than with the monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA. Our conclusions about differences in comparative safety are further strengthened by multiple observational studies reporting consistent differences in withdrawal rates.

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Without direct comparisons between antirheumatic agents, the reliability of any conclusions is limited. However, we believe this review and our findings from the available indirect comparisons will provide useful information for professionals faced with therapeutic decisions. Large, well-designed and conducted RCTs with direct comparisons between agents in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are needed. The trials should be designed with attention to inclusion and exclusion criteria such as stage and severity of disease, prior treatments and co-morbidities. The studies should be conducted with rigorous methodology and with consistency of all patient treatments and experiences except for the interventions being studied. Registry studies will continue to play an important role in providing comparative safety information.

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APPENDICES CONTENTS

- I. METHODS
- II. GENERAL RISK OF BIAS CONSIDERATIONS FOR REGISTRIES
- III. PROJECT TEAM
- IV. REFERENCES

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All included studies were rated as of uncertain validity and clinical usefulness for safety.

I. METHODS

Searching and Filtering

We conducted a systematic literature search to identify relevant studies published in peer-reviewed publications, critically appraised, documented and synthesized the evidence from the obtained literature. We searched for systematic reviews and meta-analyses of RCTS and observational studies reporting safety outcomes of interest as described below.

The following electronic databases were searched to identify relevant peer-reviewed studies:

- PubMed (includes MEDLINE, OLDMEDLINE, HealthStar) and Cochrane Databases (including Systematic Reviews, Registry of Clinical Trials, Database of Reviews of Effectiveness)
- AHRQ
- Relevant FDA documentation or reports
- Selected studies from bibliographies of retrieved studies

Searches were conducted using standard MeSH terms (controlled vocabulary) as well as specific free-text terms and combinations of terms related to the key question. The search terms and results are provided in **V. Search Documentation**.

Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria of Studies Included in the Review

Study Component	Inclusion	Exclusion
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adults treated for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children ▪ Adults treated for other conditions
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The following six agents—adalimumab (Humira), certolizumab pegol (Cimzia), etanercept (Enbrel), golimumab (Simponi), infliximab (Remicade), and ustekinumab (Stelara) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other traditional DMARDs or biologic agents
Comparators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determined by available studies ▪ Clinical trials: Appropriate control group ▪ Observational studies: Report of population-based expected incidences 	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demyelinating disease ▪ Infusion reactions ▪ Injection-site reactions ▪ Lymphoma ▪ Malignancy ▪ Mortality ▪ Serious infections, tuberculosis (tb) and non-tb opportunistic infections ▪ Withdrawals and withdrawals due to adverse events 	
Study Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, relevant RCTs and relevant observational studies (including registries) providing safety data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Case reports ▪ Meta-analyses providing only an estimate of effect for tumor necrosis factor inhibitors as a class
Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studies published in the English language in peer reviewed journals or publicly available FDA reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studies not reported in the English language ▪ Studies available only as abstracts, editorials, opinion pieces, poster presentations unless the documents contain sufficient detail for quality assessment. ▪ Duplicate publications of the same subjects which do not report on different outcomes

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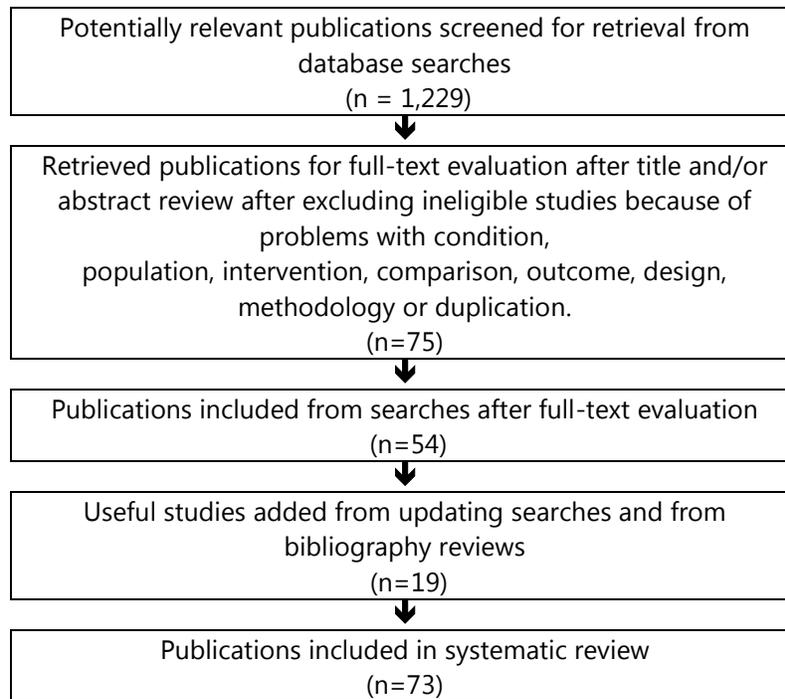
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studies which have been superseded by updating studies that have added data from additional patients ▪ Most post-hoc analyses from clinical trials ▪ White papers ▪ Most narrative reviews (exceptions for background information) ▪ Articles identified as preliminary reports when results are published in later versions
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1. Multiple searches were performed applying various search terms and limits to maximize potentially relevant studies. Limits included none, systematic reviews, reviews, meta-analysis, clinical trials, randomized controlled trials.
2. Search terms for the PubMed searches dealing included the following terms:
3. "DMARD" and "biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drug" and "tumor necrosis factor" and "TNF" and "inhibitor" and "adalimumab" and "certolizumab" and "CDP870" and "etanercept" and "golimumab" and "infliximab" and "ustekinumab" and "rheumatoid" and "arthritis" and "psoriasis" and "psoriatic" and "demyelinating" and "multiple sclerosis" and "infusion reaction" and "injection site reaction" and "lymphoma" and "malignancy" and "carcinoma" and "mortality" and "serious" and "infection" and "communicable" and "tuberculosis" and "opportunistic" and "fungal" and "withdrawal" and "adverse" and "event" and "health technology" and "technology assessment" and "register" and "registry."
4. Search dates in some cases were based on search dates of systematic reviews or meta-analyses obtained from our initial searches. Details of the search include search date, search terms, limits (e.g., randomized controlled trial (RCT) or systematic review (SR)) and PubMed query translation were documented, as were the number of hits.
5. Titles and abstracts were evaluated to determine relevancy. Studies found to be irrelevant in terms of condition, intervention, comparator and outcomes reported and those seen to have fatal flaws identifiable by title or abstract review were excluded and the remaining studies were selected for retrieval and recorded.
6. Full text review of retrieved studies was used to exclude studies that contained no relevant or useful safety information.
7. During the full text review other studies of interest were noted, retrieved and reviewed utilizing reference lists provided in the studies. The flow diagram below quantifies the studies considered and included in this review.
8. Searches were repeated periodically up to March 1, 2011 looking for useful new studies.

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Flowchart Summarizing Search and Application of Relevance and Inclusion Criteria

We screened 1,229 potentially relevant publications from our 24 database searches. We retrieved 75 studies for further abstract and/or full text evaluation after excluding ineligible studies because of problems with topic, condition, intervention, comparison, outcome, design, methodology or duplication. We included 54 studies obtained from searches and 19 from useful studies published after search dates and from bibliography reviews. We included 73 publications in our systematic review.



Study Selection, Quality Assessment and Rating of the Body of Evidence

One or two Delfini reviewers assessed the methodological quality of studies selected for critical appraisal after examining titles, abstracts and, in some cases, full text for relevance.

Studies selected for further review were evaluated for selection, performance, attrition and assessment bias along with other threats to validity. Individual studies were assessed for validity and usefulness. References lists were examined for other relevant studies. All studies were rated as of uncertain validity and clinical usefulness because of study size, design or methodological problems.

A description of the rating system is provided above in **Section 5. Evidence Grading**.

II. GENERAL RISK OF BIAS CONSIDERATIONS FOR REGISTRIES

There are many potential opportunities for bias to distort outcomes in registries. Common to many of the registries are the following issues—

1. No mention of how switching was handled between therapeutic agents.
2. Potential for double-counting of outcomes.
3. Unblinded assessment,
4. It is possible that differences are chance effects or are due to differences in care experiences between agents (e.g., frequency of visits).
5. More follow-up time may be needed for outcomes to occur.
6. Patients on the agents of interest may have been more or less at risk for the development of outcome of interest due to channeling.
7. Differences in outcomes may be reflective of detection and not causation.

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8. Patients on the agents of interest may have been more at risk for overdiagnosis bias due to potential of care differences between other patients due to pretreatment evaluations, which also may have varied between agents.
9. Registries are longitudinal databases; therefore differences in baseline characteristics in the groups, lack of blinding, different co-interventions and other clinical management decisions and assessment differences may confound results.
10. Different behaviors and choices made by clinicians and patients choosing different antirheumatic agents could be confounders.
11. Possible undocumented co-interventions and other differences in management and differing patient experiences may be causally associated with outcomes.
12. In addition to administration of different TNFIs, differences in antirheumatic agent dosing, route of administration, frequency of administration, half-life of agents, immunogenic differences in agents, etc. could explain the results.
13. Findings of no difference raise questions of sufficient power to detect differences.

These issues apply to all of the studies based on registries utilized in this review unless specifically noted in individual study critiques.

III. PROJECT TEAM

Delfini Group comprises Michael E. Stuart MD and Sheri Ann Strite, two experts in evidence-based clinical improvement methods and in evidence-based scientific reviews.

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IV. CRITICAL APPRAISALS

Safety of Biologic Agents: Critical Appraisal Documentation

The following should be considered working documents only and repository of working notes used to help create the report, entitled **Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs**. The systematic review should be considered the repository of all pertinent information to answer the question, "What is the evidence regarding the comparative safety of the following six agents as used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: adalimumab (Humira) (ADA), certolizumab pegol (Cimzia) (CZP), etanercept (Enbrel) (ETN), golimumab (Simponi) (GLM), infliximab (Remicade) (IFX), ustekinumab (Stelara) (UST)?" Important information from this document is summarized in the systematic review.

We have included in the review a discussion of the general reliability of the studies reviewed. A detailed list of bias considerations for registries is also included in the review under, **GENERAL RISK OF BIAS CONSIDERATIONS FOR REGISTRIES**. Because of these issues and various commonalities, we have not prepared detailed critical appraisals of each of the included studies nor graded individual studies, but rather here document additional information specific to each study. Some studies appear more than once in order to document inclusion in a systematic review or to make comparisons with other studies.

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ALONSO-RUIZ meta RA ifx ada etn 08 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Alonso-Ruiz 08

Citation: Alonso-Ruiz A, Pijoan JI, Ansuategui E, Urkaregi A, Calabozo M, Quintana A. Tumor necrosis factor alpha drugs in rheumatoid arthritis: systematic review and metaanalysis of efficacy and safety. BMC Musculoskelet Disord 2008;9:52. PMID: 18419803

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement: No information

Abstract

Background: To analyze available evidence on the efficacy and safety of anti-TNF α drugs (infliximab, etanercept and adalimumab) for treating rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: We searched systematically for randomised controlled clinical trials on treatment of RA with anti-TNF α drugs, followed by a systematic review with metaanalysis. Trials were searched from MEDLINE, EMBASE and Cochrane Library databases. The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) efficacy response criteria were used. Safety parameters provided by the trials were also assessed. Positive and undesired effects were estimated using combined relative risks (RR), number needed to treat (NNT) and number needed to harm (NNH). Heterogeneity was evaluated by Cochrane's Q and I² statistics.

Safety Results: Thirteen trials (7087 patients) met the inclusion criteria. Side effects were more common among patients receiving anti-TNF α drugs than controls (overall combined NNH 27). Patients receiving infliximab were more likely to drop out because of side effects (NNH 24) and to suffer severe side effects (NNH 31), infections (NNH 10) and reactions (NNH 9). Patients receiving adalimumab were also more likely to drop out because of side effects (NNH 47) and to suffer injection site reactions (NNH 22). Patients receiving etanercept were less likely to drop out because of side effects (NNH for control versus etanercept 26) but more likely to experience injection site reactions (NNH 5).

Conclusion: Anti-TNF α drugs are effective in RA patients, with apparently similar results irrespective of the drug administered. Doses other than those recommended are also beneficial. The main factor influencing therapeutic efficacy is the prior response to DMARD treatment. The effect of treatment with etanercept or adalimumab does not differ from that obtained with MTX. The published safety profile for etanercept is superior but the fact that no patients are treated with higher than recommended doses requires explanation.

Reviewer Comments

- Compared agents to placebo with or without MTX.
- Prespecified safety outcomes included serious adverse events (those adverse events that required prolonged hospitalization, led to the risk of death, resulted in death, or were classified as serious by the investigator), serious infections (infections that required treatment with parenteral antibiotics or led to hospitalization or the risk of death), malignancy, or death. Withdrawals from treatment due to lack of efficacy or adverse events were also evaluated.
- Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria: Clinical trials had to be of at least 6 months duration and were excluded if they either used administration routes other than recommended or included no treatment arm or did not use recommended doses.
- Search dates: Information from the MEDLINE, EMBASE and Cochrane Library databases up to October 2006
- Methodological quality by applying Jadad Scale – included trials with scores of 3-5 (Jadad 96). Jadad Scale ratings of 3 or higher do not assure that study quality is medium or high. The Jadad scale consists of three items for which points are awarded: randomization, double blinding, and reporting of withdrawals or dropouts. However, the scale does not address these items adequately. For instance, in the domain of randomization, the scale addresses the sequence generation, but not concealment of allocation of the sequence. Other methodological flaws are also not assessed when using the Jadad scale. For example, a low quality study found to have numerous flaws such as no concealment of allocation, a large number of dropouts that are well-described, a per-protocol analysis, and myriad other biases such as multiple differences in care delivered to the study groups could receive five points and be judged to be a study of the highest quality. The Jadad scale has therefore been criticized by several authors as being inadequate for assessing bias in RCTs (Juni 99, Lundh 08). Meta-analyses that employ the Jadad scale as the sole instrument for assessing quality may therefore include trials that are distorted by bias and confounding.
- Heterogeneity for some outcomes was moderate to high.
- **Conclusion:** This meta-analysis of RCTs reported that patients treated with anti-TNF drugs demonstrated a significantly higher frequency of adverse events compared to placebo (RR 1.02 [95% CI 1.00–1.04]). The three biologic drugs also demonstrated statistically significant differences in terms of withdrawal due to adverse events compared with the placebo group, but in the etanercept group withdrawal due to adverse events was higher in the placebo group. The meta-analysis reported similar data regarding serious adverse events, malignancy, and deaths for the three biologic drugs compared with the placebo group, and the data were not statistically significant. Data about serious infections were only statistically significant for infliximab. This finding differs from a later (Wien 10) meta-analysis which reported nonsignificant results for all the safety parameters when compared with the placebo group.

Results (Controls: Placebo With Or Without MTX)

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Withdrawals Due To Adverse Events

Drug and Trials	Events/Total DMARD	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Adalimumab Weinblatt 03, van de Putte 04, Furst 03, Keystone 04, Breedveld 06.	131/1922	44/947	1.42 (95% CI 1.01 to 1.99)	47	0
Etanercept Moreland 99, Weinblatt 99, Bathon 00, van der Heijde 06, Lipsky 00.	103/1082	75/555	0.70 (95% CI 0.53 to 0.92)	-26 (favors ETN)	0
Infliximab Lipsky 00, St Clair 04, Quinn 05, Westhovens 06.	138/1822	24/759	2.04 (95% CI 1.34 to 3.12)	24	0

Serious Adverse Events

Lipsky 00, St Clair 04, Quinn 05, Westhovens 06, van der Heijde 06, van de Putte 04, Furst 03, Keystone 04,

Drug and Trials	Events/Total DMARD	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Adalimumab	167/1171	75/628	1.0 (95% CI 0.7 to 1.4)	NS	25
Etanercept	64/454	37/228	0.9 (95% CI 0.5 to 1.6)	NS	0
Infliximab	217/1610	77/759	1.4 (95% CI 1.0 to 2.0)	31 (17–167)	52

Injection-site Reactions

Lipsky 00, St Clair 04, Quinn 05, Westhovens 06, van der Heijde 06, van de Putte 04, Furst 03, Keystone 04,

Drug and Trials	Events/Total DMARD (%)	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Adalimumab	241/1380 (17.5%)	88/690 (12.8%)	1.7 (95% CI 1.0 to 3.0)	22 (13–67)	72
Etanercept	303/1074 (28.2%)	32/555 (5.8%)	5.1 (95% CI 2.9 to 8.8)	5 (4–6)	0

Infusion Reactions

Lipsky 00, St Clair 04, Quinn 05, Westhovens 06, van der Heijde 06, van de Putte 04, Furst 03, Keystone 04,

Drug and Trials	Events/Total DMARD	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Infliximab	136/761 (17.9%)	20/308 (6.5%)	2.7 (95% CI 1.7 to 4.2)	9 (7 to 14)	0

Serious Infections

Drug and Trials	Events/Total DMARD	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Adalimumab	44/1922	14/947	1.2 (95% CI 0.6 to 2.8)		31
Etanercept	47/454	25/28	0.9 (95% CI 0.4 to 2.3)		0
Infliximab	90/1812	19/726	1.8 (95% CI 0.9 to 3.4)		26

Malignancy

Drug and Trials	Events/Total DMARD	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Adalimumab	16/1922	5/947	1.1 (95% CI 0.4 to 2.7)	NS	0
Etanercept	15/1082	4/555	1.9 (95% CI 0.6 to 5.7)	NS	0
Infliximab	13/1822	1/759	2.6 (95% CI 0.6 to 11.6)	NS	0

Mortality

Drug	Events/Total DMARD	Events/Total Control	Relative Risk	NNH	I ²
Adalimumab	10/1922	3/947	1.3 (95% CI 0.4 to 4.7)		0
Etanercept	4/1082	1/555	1.5 (95% CI 0.2 to 9.5)		0
Infliximab	9/1822	5/759	0.5 (95% CI 0.2 to 1.4)		0

RR was not statistically significantly different from control for all 3 agents.

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ANTONI AEs psoriasis 08 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Antoni 08

Citation: Antoni CE, Kavanaugh A, van der Heijde D, Beutler A, Keenan G, Zhou B, Kirkham B, Tutuncu Z, Burmester GR, Schneider U, Furst DE, Molitor J, Keystone E, Gladman DD, Manger B, Wassenberg S, Weier R, Wallace DJ, Weisman MH, Kalden JR, Smolen JS. Two-year efficacy and safety of infliximab treatment in patients with active psoriatic arthritis: findings of the Infliximab Multinational Psoriatic Arthritis Controlled Trial (IMPACT). J Rheumatol. 2008 May;35(5):869-76. Epub 2008 Mar 15. PubMed PMID: 18381786.

Study Type: RCT

Manufacture Involvement: unrestricted grant from Centocor, Inc.

Abstract

Objective. To investigate longterm efficacy/safety of infliximab over 2 years in patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Methods. Initially, 104 patients were randomized to receive blinded infusions of infliximab 5 mg/kg or placebo at Weeks 0, 2, 6, and 14. At Week 16, all patients received infliximab 5 mg/kg every 8 weeks through Week 46. Seventy-eight of the 87 patients completing the first year continued into the open-label longterm extension and received infliximab 5 mg/kg at Weeks 54, 62, 70, 78, 86, and 94. The primary efficacy endpoint for the study extension was the proportion of patients with at least 20% improvement in the American College of Rheumatology response criteria (ACR20) at Week 98. Radiographic progression was assessed by the PsA-modified van der Heijde-Sharp score in patients with radiographs available at baseline and Week 98 (n = 43).

Results. At Week 98, 62% (48/78) of infliximab-treated patients achieved an ACR20 response; 45% (35/78) and 35% (27/78) of patients achieved ACR50 and ACR70 responses, respectively. Among patients with baseline Psoriasis Area and Severity Index scores ≥ 12.5 , 64% (16/25) achieved > 75% improvement from baseline to Week 98. The average estimated annual radiographic progression with infliximab treatment was significantly reduced versus the estimated baseline rate of progression. No new safety issues were observed during the second year of the study.

Conclusion. Therapy with infliximab 5 mg/kg through Week 94 produced sustained improvement in joint and skin symptoms, inhibited radiographic progression, and continued to exhibit a favorable benefit- risk ratio in this population with treatment-refractory PsA. (First Release Mar 15 2008; J Rheumatol 2008;35:869-76)

Reviewer Comments

- The withdrawal rate due to AEs was 6.4% in the ADA group.
- The rate of severe infections was 2.6%.

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ASKLING TB SWEDISH REGISTRY RA 05 final

AUTHOR YR: Askling 05

Citation: Askling J, Fored CM, Brandt L, Baecklund E, Bertilsson L, Cöster L, Geborek P, Jacobsson LT, Lindblad S, Lysholm J, Rantapää-Dahlqvist S, Saxne T, Romanus V, Klareskog L, Feltelius N. Risk and case characteristics of tuberculosis in rheumatoid arthritis associated with tumor necrosis factor antagonists in Sweden. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005 Jul;52(7):1986-92. PubMed PMID: 15986370.

Study Design: Registry

Manufacture Involvement: Supported by the Swedish Cancer Society, AFA Insurance Company, Wyeth-Ayerst, Schering-Plough, Abbott Immunology, and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Abstract

Objective. Because treatment with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists may increase the risk of tuberculosis (TB), and because knowledge of the risk of TB in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) not treated with biologics is scarce and of uncertain generalizability to low-risk populations, this study sought to determine the risk of TB among Swedish patients with RA.

Methods. Using data from Swedish nationwide and population-based registers and data from an ongoing monitoring program of TNF antagonists, the relative risks of TB in patients with RA (versus the general population) and of TB associated with TNF antagonists (versus RA patients not treated with biologics) were determined by comparing the incidence of hospitalization for TB in 3 RA cohorts and 2 general population cohorts from 1999 to 2001. We also reviewed the characteristics of all reported cases of TB in RA patients treated with TNF antagonists in Sweden and calculated the incidence of TB per type of TNF antagonist between 1999 and 2004.

Results. During 1999–2001, RA patients who were not treated with TNF antagonists were at increased risk of TB versus the general population (relative risk 2.0, 95% confidence interval [95% CI] 1.2–3.4). RA patients treated with TNF antagonists had a 4-fold increased risk of TB (relative risk 4.0, 95% CI 1.3–12) versus RA patients not treated with TNF antagonists. The reported TB cases during 1999–2004 in RA patients exposed to TNF antagonists (9 infliximab, 4 etanercept, 2 both) were predominantly pulmonary. TB occurred up to 3 years following the start of treatment.

Conclusion. Irrespective of whether TNF antagonists are administered, Swedish patients with RA are at increased risk of TB. During 1999–2001, TNF antagonists were associated with an increased risk of TB, up to 4-fold in magnitude. This increased risk may persist over time during treatment and is related to both infliximab and etanercept.

Reviewer Comments

- The incidence of reported TB in RA-treated with TNF antagonists from 1999 through 2004 was 118 (95% CI 58 to 210) per 100,000 person-years among RA patients during treatment, and 105 (95% CI 56 to 180) per 100,000 person-years among RA patients who had ever been treated with a TNF antagonist.
- Among RA patients who had received only IFX, the incidence of TB during treatment was 145 (95% CI 58 to 299) per 100,000 person-years
- Among RA patients who had received only ETN, the incidence was 80 (95% CI 16 to 232) per 100,000 person-years
- Among patients who had received both IFX and ETN, the incidence was 129 (95% CI 3.3 to 719) per 100,000 person years
- The relative risk for TB in patients treated with ETN compared to IFX was 0.5 (95% CI 0.1 to 2.4)

Risk of TB by Biologic Agent (Askling 05)

Agent	Incidence of TB / 100,000 PY	Relative Risk For TB Compared to IFX
IFX Only	145 (95% CI 58 to 299)	n/a
ETN Only	80 (95% CI 16 to 232)	0.5 (95% CI 0.1 to 2.4)

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ASKLING09_Registry_Swedish_Cancer_LYMPHOMA 09

AUTHOR YR: Askling 09

Citation: Askling J, Baecklund E, Granath F, Geborek P, Forede M, Backlin C, Bertilsson L, Cöster L, Jacobsson LT, Lindblad S, Lysholm J, Rantapää-Dahlqvist S, Saxne T, van Vollenhoven R, Klareskog L, Feltelius N. Anti-tumour necrosis factor therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and risk of malignant lymphomas: relative risks and time trends in the Swedish Biologics Register. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 May;68(5):648-53. Epub 2008 May 8. PubMed PMID: 18467516.

Study Type: Registry

Manufacture Involvement: Financial support for this study was obtained from the Swedish Cancer Society and from Wyeth-Ayerst, Schering-Plough, Abbott Immunology and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

ABSTRACT

Background: Tumour necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists have proved effective as treatment against rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but the unresolved issue of whether the use of anti-TNF therapy increases the already elevated risk of lymphoma in RA remains a concern.

Methods: Using the Swedish Biologics Register (ARTIS), the Swedish Cancer Register, pre-existing RA cohorts and cross-linkage with other national health and census registers, a national RA cohort (n = 67 743) was assembled and patients who started anti-TNF therapy between 1998 and July 2006 (n = 6604) were identified. A general population comparator (n = 471 024) was also assembled and the incidence of lymphomas from 1999 to 31 December 2006 was assessed and compared in these individuals.

Results: Among the 6604 anti-TNF-treated RA patients, 26 malignant lymphomas were observed during 26 981 person-years of follow-up, which corresponded to a relative risk (RR) of 1.35 (95% CI 0.82 to 2.11) versus anti-TNF-naive RA patients (336 lymphomas during 365 026 person-years) and 2.72 (95% CI 1.82 to 4.08) versus the general population comparator (1568 lymphomas during 3 355 849 person-years). RA patients starting anti-TNF therapy in 1998–2001 accounted for the entire increase in lymphoma risk versus the two comparators. By contrast, RR did not vary significantly by time since start of first treatment or with the accumulated duration of treatment, nor with the type of anti-TNF agent.

Conclusion: Overall and as used in routine care against RA, TNF antagonists are not associated with any major further increase in the already elevated lymphoma occurrence in RA. Changes in the selection of patients for treatment may influence the observed risk.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, in RA
- Authors assessed risks in relation to the time since starting the first anti-TNF agent (irrespective of treatment discontinuation), the duration of anti-TNF therapy, and the specific anti-TNF agent received.
- Swedish registries described as nationwide; population-based; mandatory and semi-automated participation; described as “virtually complete.”
- Population patients hospitalized with (not necessarily because of) RA, between 1964 and 2005; outpatient visits for patients with RA listed as a diagnosis; and, incident RA cases diagnosed from 1995 through 2007.
- Various quality control measures taken including previous validation surveys for accuracy of diagnosis with good results.
- Consistent with prevalence estimates.
- Anti-TNF therapy in the national RA cohort: “Since 1998, patients with RA (or other rheumatologic diseases) who are older than 16 years and are starting treatment with TNF antagonists have been entered into, and followed up in, Anti-Rheumatic Therapy in Sweden (ARTIS), the practice-based national Swedish Biologics Register. For each initiated treatment, information on the underlying rheumatologic condition, including the date of onset, date of treatment initiation (and discontinuation), type and dose of biologic agent, scores and the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), concomitant disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), steroids, nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, and analgesics, is recorded by the treating rheumatologist at the start of treatment as well as at prespecified followup visits. By linking the above-mentioned national cohort of 67,743 RA patients to the Swedish Biologics Register, we identified those who were starting anti-TNF therapy, including their dates of starting/ stopping.”
- Patients were described as similar except for a higher proportion of methotrexate use among patients starting infliximab.
- A total of 6604 patients with RA started a first TNF antagonist treatment between 1998 and 31 July 2006 (table 1); 51% were first treated with infliximab, 34% with etanercept and 14% with adalimumab; 25% had been treated with more than one anti-TNF drug.
- Linkage to the Swedish Cancer Register, to which reporting of all malignant neoplasms is mandatory both for the treating physician and for the pathologist since 1958, identified all registered malignant lymphomas and other cancers between 1958 and December 2006 for all unique individuals in the study. Previous reclassification of some 400 RA lymphomas identified through this method indicates a diagnostic correctness greater than 95% with respect to the lymphoma diagnosis.⁹ For RA patients exposed to TNF antagonists, we also searched for lymphomas among the adverse events reported within the framework of the Swedish Biologics Register (no additional cases were detected), and verified all lymphomas through scrutiny of the medical records and reclassification of the tissue specimens.
- RR did not vary significantly by time since start of first treatment or with the accumulated duration of treatment, nor with the type of anti-TNF agent. Authors state, “We did not note any major difference in RR for each of the three anti-TNF drugs (RR for etanercept, infliximab, adalimumab and for switchers all fell between 1.2 and 1.5, not shown) although precision was limited.”

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BONGARTZ 06_Metaanalysis_INFECTIONS_ADA_IFX RA_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Bongartz 06

Citation: Bongartz T, Sutton AJ, Sweeting MJ, Buchan I, Matteson EL, Montori V. Anti-TNF antibody therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of serious infections and malignancies: systematic review and meta-analysis of rare harmful effects in randomized controlled trials. JAMA2006 May 17;295(19):2275-85.PMID: 16705109

Study Type: Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement: Additional data were provided by Abbott and Centocor and were subject to a confidentiality agreement. Abbott and Centocor received the manuscript 4 weeks prior to submission but did not have any role in the design and conduct of the study. Dr Bongartz and Dr Matteson report having been paid consultants for Abbott for work unrelated to this study.

<p>Abstract</p> <p>Context Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) plays an important role in host defense and tumor growth control. Therefore, anti-TNF antibody therapies may increase the risk of serious infections and malignancies.</p> <p>Objective To assess the extent to which anti-TNF antibody therapies may increase the risk of serious infections and malignancies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis by performing a meta-analysis to derive estimates of sparse harmful events occurring in randomized trials of anti-TNF therapy.</p> <p>Data Sources A systematic literature search of EMBASE, MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, and electronic abstract databases of the annual scientific meetings of both the European League Against Rheumatism and the American College of Rheumatology was conducted through December 2005. This search was complemented with interviews of the manufacturers of the 2 licensed anti-TNF antibodies.</p> <p>Study Selection We included randomized, placebo-controlled trials of the 2 licensed anti-TNF antibodies (infliximab and adalimumab) used for 12 weeks or more in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Nine trials met our inclusion criteria, including 3493 patients who received anti-TNF antibody treatment and 1512 patients who received placebo.</p> <p>Data Extraction Data on study characteristics to assess study quality and intention-to-treat data for serious infections and malignancies were abstracted. Published information from the trials was supplemented by direct contact between principal investigators and industry sponsors.</p> <p>Data Synthesis We calculated a pooled odds ratio (Mantel-Haenszel methods with a continuity correction designed for sparse data) for malignancies and serious infections (infection that requires antimicrobial therapy and/or hospitalization) in anti-TNF-treated patients vs placebo patients. We estimated effects for high and low doses separately. The pooled odds ratio for malignancy was 3.3 (95% confidence interval [CI], 1.2-9.1) and for serious infection was 2.0 (95% CI, 1.3-3.1). Malignancies were significantly more common in patients treated with higher doses compared with patients who received lower doses of anti-TNF antibodies. For patients treated with anti-TNF antibodies in the included trials, the number needed to harm was 154 (95% CI, 91- 500) for 1 additional malignancy within a treatment period of 6 to 12 months. For serious infections, the number needed to harm was 59 (95% CI, 39-125) within a treatment period of 3 to 12 months.</p> <p>Conclusions There is evidence of an increased risk of serious infections and a dose dependent increased risk of malignancies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with anti-TNF antibody therapy. The formal meta-analysis with pooled sparse adverse events data from randomized controlled trials serves as a tool to assess harmful drug effects.</p>
<p>Reviewer Comments</p> <p>NOTE: Most studies included in the meta-analysis are reported individually in NAM critical appraisal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual trials have shown inconsistent associations between TNF inhibitors and serious infections and malignancy.• Post hoc meta-analysis of RCT data.• Included RCTs of 12 week duration or more in RA patients on IFX or ADA. Study participants had to be randomized to receive treatment with an anti-TNF antibody vs placebo (or anti-TNF antibody plus traditional DMARD vs placebo plus traditional DMARD) for at least 12 weeks.• Heterogeneity in trial populations and concomitant drug use. However inconsistency statistic for malignancy was 0% (95% CI 0% to 25%). For infection the statistical inconsistency statistic was 24% (95% CI 0% to 66%).• Published data in the 9 included randomized controlled trials reported 24 malignancies in 3493 patients who received at least 1 dose of an anti-TNF antibody (0.8%) and 2 malignancies in 1512 control patients (0.2%).• Safety data from these trials as reported to the FDA included 37 malignancies in the treatment groups and 3 malignancies in the control groups. After contacting the sponsors and principal investigators for verification of the retrieved numbers and clarification of discrepancies between published and FDA data, 29 malignancies in the treatment groups and 3 malignancies in the placebo groups were used for analysis. Seven malignancies not reported in the published data were skin cancers (2 squamous cell carcinoma and 5 basal cell carcinoma) and 6 malignancies were malignant lymphoma that occurred in the anti-TNF study arms during follow-up, after the actual trial period had ended. The latter were not included in this meta-analysis. Two malignancies, which occurred in 2 anti-TNF-

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treated patients who had already developed a first malignancy during the study period, were censored and not included into the analysis.

Risk of Serious Infections in RA Patients Receiving ADA or IFX Compared to Placebo +/- MTX (Bongartz 06)

Drug	Trials Reporting Serious Infection Data	N	Pooled Odds Ratio ADA and IFX	P Value
ADA	Keystone 04, Furst 03, van de Putte 03, van de Putte 04, Breedveld 06, Weinblatt 03, Keystone 04	5005	2.01 (95% CI 1.31 to 3.09)	0.002
IFX	Lipsky 00, Maini 98, St Clair 04, Westhovens 04			

Risk of Malignancy in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With IFX, ADA, ETN

Reference	Agents and Population (N)	Outcomes
Bongartz 06	IFX or ADA in RA versus Placebo with or without MTX (1,512)	OR 3.3 (95% CI 1.2 to 9.1) ARI 0.65% (95% CI 0.2% to 1.1%) 6 to 12 mos NNH 154 (95% CI 91 to 500) 6 to 12 mos

Risk of Lymphoma in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With IFX, ADA

Bongartz 06 (9 RA Trials) N=3493		
Agent	Number of Cases	Incidence (Up to 34 Weeks)
IFX or ADA	10 per 3493 Patients	0.29%

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BONGARTZ 09_Metaanalysis_Malignancy_Etanercept_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Bongartz 09

Citation: Bongartz T, Warren FC, Mines D, Matteson EL, Abrams KR, Sutton AJ. Etanercept therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of malignancies: a systematic review and individual patient data meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2009 Jul;68(7):1177-83. Epub 2008 Nov 19. Review. PubMed PMID: 19019889.

Study Type: Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement: Funded by Wyeth and Amgen. Companies provided data for analysis and had opportunity to comment on study design and manuscript. All final decisions rested with the authors. However, some authors are company employees (including one with reported stock), and many other relationships were disclosed.

<p>Abstract</p> <p>PURPOSE Tumour necrosis factor (TNF) plays an important role in inflammation and may affect tumour growth control. To assess the risk of malignancy with etanercept, a fusion protein that inhibits TNF action, a meta-analysis was performed using individual patient data from randomised controlled trials (RCT) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>METHODS A search was conducted of bibliographic databases, abstracts from annual meetings and any unpublished studies on file with manufacturers of etanercept to December 2006. Only RCT of etanercept used for 12 weeks or more in patients with RA were included. Nine trials met the inclusion criteria. To adjudicate endpoints, the case narratives of potential cases were reviewed. Patient-level data were extracted from the clinical trials databases.</p> <p>RESULTS The nine trials included 3316 patients, 2244 who received etanercept (contributing 2484 person-years of follow-up) and 1072 who received control therapy (1051 person-years). Malignancies were diagnosed in 26 patients in the etanercept group (incidence rate (IR) 10.47/1000 person-years) and seven patients in the control group (IR 6.66/1000 person-years). A Cox's proportional hazards, fixed-effect model stratified by trial yielded a hazard ratio of 1.84 (95% CI 0.79 to 4.28) for the etanercept group compared with the control group.</p> <p>CONCLUSION In this analysis, the point estimate of malignancy risk was higher in etanercept-treated patients, although the results were not statistically significant. The approach of obtaining individual patient data of RCT in cooperation with trial sponsors allowed important insights into the methodological advantages and challenges of sparse adverse event data meta-analysis.</p>
<p>Reviewer Comments</p> <p>NOTE: Most studies included in the meta-analysis are reported individually in NAM critical appraisal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control groups: placebo with or without MTX (in one study control group was placebo plus sulfasalazine) Non-significant findings could be a result of insufficient power. Authors indicate that the HR cannot exclude a clinically meaningful association.

Meta-analysis comparing 2,244 RA patients who received ETN (contributing 2484 person-years of follow-up) and 1,072 who received control therapy (1,051 person-years) malignancies in 26 patients in the ETN group (incidence rate 10.47/1000 person-years) and 7 patients in the placebo group with or without MTX (in one study the comparison group was placebo plus sulfasalazine) (IR 6.66/1000 person-years) with hazard ratio of 1.84 (95% CI, 0.79 to 4.28) for the ETN group compared with the control group.

Reference	Agents and Population (N)	Outcomes
Bongartz 09	ETN versus Placebo with or without traditional DMARD (3,316)	IR 10.47/1000 person years ETN group (26 malignancies) IR 1.84/1000 person years control group (7 malignancies)

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BURMESTER 09 META-ANALYSIS SAFETY AND MORTALITY RA, PSORIASIS AND PsA_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Burmester 09

Citation: Burmester GR, Mease P, Dijkmans BA, et al. Adalimumab safety and mortality rates from global clinical trials of six immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. Ann Rheum Dis 2009;68:1863-9.PMID: 1914761

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Study Type: Systematic Review

Safety Outcomes: Withdrawals and withdrawals due to serious adverse events

Manufacture Involvement: NO

RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM PUBLISHED ABSTRACT AND TEXT

AIM: To assess the safety of adalimumab in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) over time and across five other immune-mediated inflammatory diseases and to compare adalimumab malignancy and mortality rates with data on the general population.

METHODS: This analysis included 19,041 patients exposed to adalimumab in 36 global clinical trials in RA, psoriatic arthritis (PsA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), Crohn's disease (CD), psoriasis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) to 15 April 2007. Events per 100 patient-years were calculated using SAE reported after the first dose to 70 days after the last dose. Standardised incidence rates were calculated for malignancies using national and state-specific databases. Standardised mortality rates (SMR) were calculated for each disease using data from the World Health Organization.

RESULTS: Cumulative rates of SAE of interest in RA have remained stable over time. Rates of SAE of interest for PsA, AS, CD, psoriasis and JIA were similar to or lower than rates for RA. Overall malignancy rates for adalimumab-treated patients were as expected for the general population. SMR across all six diseases indicated that no more deaths occurred with adalimumab than expected in the general population.

CONCLUSIONS: Based on 10 years of clinical trial experience across six diseases, this safety report and the established efficacy of adalimumab in these diseases provide the foundation for a better understanding of its benefit-risk profile.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab in 3 conditions of interest: RA, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis
- Search quality: uncertain—few details.
- Data from 36 trials of adalimumab, 19 in RA, three in PsA, three in AS, one in JIA, five in CD and five in psoriasis, including randomised controlled trials, open-label trials and long-term extension studies to 15 April 2007.
- A total of 19 041 patients received adalimumab. Of these, 12 345 were patients with RA, of whom 1472 received adalimumab therapy for at least 5 years. Rates of SAE of interest for the three diseases of interest are listed below.
- For each disease, SAE rates were reported as events per 100 patient-years (number of events divided by the total patient-years of exposure and multiplied by 100).
- SIR used for cancer (based on NCI data for denominator).
- SMR (standardized mortality rate) use WHO data for denominator. Deaths during clinical trials, whether related to the study drug or not, were included in the analysis.
- Suggestive that the SAE of interest in patients receiving ADA for PsA, psoriasis and JIA were similar to rates for RA for most outcomes. Overall malignancy rates for adalimumab-treated patients were similar to those for the general population. SMR across all six diseases indicated that no more deaths occurred with adalimumab than expected in the general population. The risk of serious infections was higher in RA.

RESULTS

Significant Adverse Events/100 Patient-Years (As of April 2007)

Category	RA (19 Trials)	Psoriatic Arthritis (3 Trials)	Psoriasis (5 trials)
N	12,345	837	1819
Serious Infections	4.65	2.81	1.32
Tuberculosis	0.29	0.30	0.12
Opportunistic Infections	0.09	0	0
Malignancy excluding Lymphoma	0.76	0.30	0.49
Lymphoma	0.12	0.20	0

Mortality: SMR for patients treated with adalimumab for each of the six diseases, regardless of sex, were all less than 1.0 (ie, the number of deaths observed during treatment with adalimumab was less than what would be expected in the general population. SMRs were reported in graphic without numerical data. The standardized mortality ratio was less than 1, i.e., the number of deaths observed during treatment with adalimumab was less than what would be expected in the general population. The standardized mortality ratio (SMR), the ratio of observed deaths to expected deaths, for each disease was calculated using the expected rates based on country-specific age and sex matched general population data from the World Health Organization to 2002.

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Risk of Malignancy in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With ADA

Burmester 09	ADA in RA, PsA, AS, Crohn's disease versus general population (19,041)	Rate of malignancy per 100 patient years: 0.76 in RA Rate of malignancy per 100 patient years: 0.49 in psoriasis Rate of malignancy per 100 patient years: 0.30 in PsA
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Risk of Lymphoma in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With IFX, ADA – Results From 2 Meta-Analyses (Burmester 09, Bongartz 06)

Burmester 09 (19 RA Trials) N=12,345		
Agent	Number Lymphomas per 100 PT YR	SIR (Comparator SEER and NCI data)
ADA in RA (19 trials, N=12,345)	0.12	2.98 (95% CI 1.89 to 4.47)
ADA in PsA (3 trials, N=837)	0.20	Not reported
ADA in psoriasis (5 trials, N=1819)	0	Not reported
Bongartz 06 (9 RA Trials) N=3493		
Agent	Number of Cases	Incidence (Up to 34 Weeks)
IFX or ADA	10 per 3493 Patients	0.29%

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CARMONA SPANISH REGISTRY MORTALITY RA 07 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Carmona 07

Citation: Carmona L, Descalzo MA, Perez-Pampin E, Ruiz-Montesinos D, Erra A, Cobo T, Gómez-Reino JJ; BIOBADASER and EMECAR Groups. All-cause and cause-specific mortality in rheumatoid arthritis are not greater than expected when treated with tumour necrosis factor antagonists. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2007 Jul;66(7):880-5. Epub 2007 Feb 26. PubMed PMID: 17324968.

Study Type: Registry

Safety Outcomes: Mortality

Manufacture Involvement: supported by grants of similar quantity from Schering-Plough, Wyeth, Abbott Immunology, Roche Farma and Bristol-Myers Squibb, Spain. The EMECAR cohort was supported by Aventis.

ABSTRACT

Background: Mortality is increased in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), mainly because of cardiovascular (CV) events, cancer and infections. Recent data suggest that treatment with tumour necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists may affect this trend.

Objective: To assess whether treatment with TNF antagonists is associated with reduction in CV events, cancer and infection rates, and in mortality in patients with RA treated and not treated with TNF antagonists.

Methods: BIOBADASER is a registry for active long-term follow-up of safety of biological treatments in patients with RA. It includes 4459 patients with RA treated with TNF antagonists. EMECAR is an external RA cohort (n = 789) established to define the characteristics of the disease in Spain and to assess comorbidity. The incidence density (ischaemic heart disease) of CV events, cancer and infections was estimated and compared. The standardised mortality ratio was compared with the rate in the general population. A propensity score was used to match cohorts by the probability of being treated. **Results:** Rates of CV and cancer events are significantly higher in EMECAR than in BIOBADASER (RR 5–7 for different CV events, and RR 2.9 for cancer), whereas the rate of serious infections is significantly higher in BIOBADASER (RR 1.6). Mortality ratio of BIOBADASER by EMECAR is 0.32 (0.20–0.53) for all causes of death, 0.58 (0.24–1.41) for CV events, 0.52 (0.21–1.29) for infection and 0.36 (0.10–1.30) for cancer related deaths.

Conclusion: Morbidity, other than infection, and mortality are not higher than expected in patients with RA treated with TNF antagonists.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: ETN, IFX
- Reported decreased mortality rates in patients receiving anti-TNF therapy compared to patients receiving traditional DMARDs: Mortality ratio of BIOBADASER was 0.32 (0.20–0.53) for all causes.
- Conflicting evidence in Lunt 10. Differences in mortality results are most likely due to confounding.

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CHAUDHARI AEs psoriasis RCT 01 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Chaudhari 01

Citation: Chaudhari U, Romano P, Mulcahy LD, Dooley LT, Baker DG, Gottlieb AB. Efficacy and safety of infliximab monotherapy for plaque-type psoriasis: a randomised trial. *Lancet*. 2001 Jun 9;357(9271):1842-7. PubMed PMID: 11410193.

Study Type: RCT

Manufacture Involvement: Funding was provided by Centocor Inc and a COSAT grant from the Johnson and Johnson Focused Giving Program.

Abstract

Background

Currently available treatments for moderate to severe psoriasis are either incompletely effective in some patients, or are associated with toxic effects. Since tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha) is thought to have a role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis, we did a double-blind, randomised trial to assess the clinical benefit and safety of infliximab—a monoclonal antibody against TNF alpha.

Methods

33 patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis were randomly assigned intravenous placebo (n=11), infliximab 5 mg/kg (n=11), or infliximab 10 mg/kg (n=11) at weeks 0, 2, and 6. Patients were assessed at week 10 for the primary endpoint (score on the physician's global assessment [PGA]). Analysis was by intention to treat. Findings Of the 33 patients enrolled, three dropped out. Nine of 11 (82%) patients in the infliximab 5 mg/kg group were responders (good, excellent, or clear rating on PGA), compared with two of 11 (18%) in the placebo group (difference 64% [95% CI 20–89], p=0.0089), and ten of 11 (91%) patients in the infliximab 10 mg/kg group were responders (difference from placebo 73% [30–94], p=0.0019). The median time to response was 4 weeks for patients in both infliximab groups. There were no serious adverse events, and infliximab was well tolerated.

Interpretation

In this controlled trial, patients receiving the anti-TNF- α agent infliximab as monotherapy experienced a high degree of clinical benefit and rapid time to response in the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis compared with patients who received placebo. These findings suggest that TNF-alpha has a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. *Lancet* 2001; 357: 1842–47

Reviewer Comments

- Small N
- Data not included in review

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CURTIS 07 RA IFX ETN FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Curtis 07

Citation: Curtis JR, Patkar N, Xie A, Martin C, Allison JJ, Saag M, Shatin D, Saag KG. Risk of serious bacterial infections among rheumatoid arthritis patients exposed to tumor necrosis factor alpha antagonists. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007 Apr;56(4):1125-33. PMID: 17393394

Study Type: Retrospective Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: None

Abstract

In a previous study by our group (1), we observed a significantly increased risk of being hospitalized with a serious bacterial infection among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who were treated with tumor necrosis factor α (TNF α) antagonists compared with patients with RA who received methotrexate (MTX). Although we showed that this risk was increased during the entire study period (median duration of followup 17 months), the risk was highest within the first 6 months after beginning treatment with the TNF α antagonist. Given our further interest in characterizing drug-specific risks, we evaluated the comparative effects of antibody-based and non-antibody-based TNF α antagonists on the risk of being hospitalized with a bacterial infection. Extending our previously published analysis (1), we defined cohorts of patients with RA who had at least 2 International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification diagnosis codes for RA (714.x, excluding 714.3) and were receiving either infliximab or adalimumab, etanercept, or MTX without a TNF α antagonist.

Because the number of patients receiving adalimumab (n = 118) was insufficient to permit meaningful conclusions, these patients were excluded from this analysis.

All patients exposed to TNF α antagonist were new users, defined as having at least 6 months of nonexposure to these drugs prior to the first filled prescription. Patients were considered at risk of infection within 90 days of the most recent filled prescription for the drug of interest. Patients who were exposed to multiple TNF α antagonists during the same window of risk were excluded. In a sensitivity analysis, shorter risk windows were used (i.e., 30 days for etanercept and MTX, and 60 days for infliximab). Given our previously observed increased risks within the first 6 months of starting a biologic agent, we separately considered exposure time within and beyond 6 months. Using methods previously described (1), serious bacterial infections were initially identified through administrative claims data. Following nationwide medical record abstraction of hospital records, infections were confirmed independently by infectious disease physicians who were blinded to the medication lists for each hospitalization. Incidence rates, crude and adjusted incidence rate ratios, and 95% confidence intervals were computed for patients who received infliximab and etanercept compared with those who received MTX. Among the patients with RA who were exposed to TNF α antagonists, 850 were exposed to infliximab, and 1,412 were exposed to etanercept. The unexposed comparator cohort included 2,933 patients with RA who were treated with MTX. Etanercept users were younger (mean age 47.8 years; P < 0.0001 versus MTX users) than infliximab users (mean age 53.4 years; P < 0.05 versus MTX users) and MTX users (mean age 54.9 years). Infliximab users had more physician encounters in the 6 months prior to therapy (mean 8.2; P < 0.0001 versus MTX users) compared with etanercept users (mean 7.0; P nonsignificant versus MTX users) and MTX users (mean 6.9 months). The pattern of glucocorticoid usage and burden of comorbidity were similar or greater in the unexposed cohort than in the TNF α -exposed cohorts. The absolute number of cases of bacterial infection, person-time, incidence rates, and incidence rate ratios are presented in Table 1. As shown, the incidence of a serious bacterial infection was highest during the first 6 months after initiation of a TNF α antagonist, and this finding was significant only among patients exposed to infliximab. There were no significantly increased risks of infection in either the infliximab or etanercept group after the first 6 months following initiation. In our sensitivity analysis using shorter exposure windows, results were similar.

Incidence rates, crude and adjusted incidence rate ratios, and 95% confidence intervals for bacterial infection in patients treated with infliximab and etanercept compared with MTX

Category	IFX	ETN
Adjusted incidence rate ratio < 6 Months Since Initiation (compared to MTX)	2.40 (95% CI 1.23 to 4.68)	1.61 (95% CI 0.75 to 3.47)
Adjusted incidence rate ratio > 6 Months Since Initiation (compared to MTX)	1.14 (95% CI 0.55 to 2.24)	1.37 (95% CI 0.74 to 2.53)

Incidence Rates Compared to MTX (IRRs)

Curtis 07 Retrospective Cohort	IFX + ADA ETN MTX	INCIDENCE RATE RATIO (COMPARATOR IS MTX) 2.4 (95% CI 1.4 to 5.2) 1.2 (95% CI 0.5 to 2.5) Reference Agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA N=850 • ETN N=1412 • Rates are for first six months on agent • No statistically significant increase after 6 mos

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Dharamsi CRITIQUE SR ADAL INFLIX ETN 09_FINAL

NOTE: The title states this information is FOR patients with severe psoriasis but utilized data from RA patients.

AUTHOR YR: Dharamsi 09

Citation: Dharamsi JW, Bhosle M, Balkrishnan R, Yentzer BA, Feldman SR. Using 'number needed to treat' to help conceptualize the magnitude of benefit and risk of tumour necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors for patients with severe psoriasis. Br J Dermatol 2009;161:605-16. PMID: 19438475

Study Type: Systematic Review

Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab in RA

Safety Outcomes: tuberculosis, lymphoma and demyelinating disease

Manufacture Involvement: This study was funded by a grant from Abbott Laboratories. The Center for Dermatology Research is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Galderma Laboratories, L.P. The sponsors had no role in the design and conduct of the study, in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, or approval of the manuscript.

Study Abstract or Details

Objectives: To illustrate the risks and benefits of TNFalpha inhibitors in relation to risks that patients understand. **METHODS:** Authors performed a number needed to treat analysis for patients with psoriasis on TNFalpha inhibitors following a Medline and Embase search. They determined the number needed to benefit and the number needed to harm with TNFalpha inhibitor treatment and compared the risk of serious adverse events from treatment with a TNFalpha inhibitor to the risk of death from driving a car. The risk analyses were limited to the risks of tuberculosis, lymphoma and demyelinating disease.

Search: Investigators performed a variety of Medline and Embase searches from inception to April 2007, imposing no language restrictions, combining terms for adverse events ('safety', 'risks', 'adverse events', 'lymphoma', 'tuberculosis', 'infection', 'demyelinating disease', and 'multiple sclerosis') with the words 'rheumatoid arthritis' and 'psoriasis' and the list of TNFa antagonists and their respective trade names. Reviewed reference lists from pertinent articles and retrieved relevant studies. Obtained the latest FDA-approved prescribing information from the three pharmaceutical company websites, performed internet searches using Google, and accessed the FDA website (<http://www.fda.gov> accessed 26 January 2009) for additional information.

Methods: Investigators obtained data from three general types of study design -- controlled and open-label clinical trials, cohort studies, and postmarketing surveillance database studies. The most up to date published data on adverse events in controlled and uncontrolled clinical trials were abstracted from FDA-approved prescribing information for each drug, as well as from two studies of integrated clinical trial databases and one review article. Post marketing surveillance data were obtained from publications that reported adverse events from the U.S. FDA Adverse Events Reporting Database. Every time that a drug manufacturer receives a report of an adverse event, the manufacturer is required by law to submit the report to the FDA. Authors compared all articles reporting post marketing data and included only those with the most up-to-date information for each adverse event and drug. Analysis of cohort studies of adverse events was limited to those that compared a cohort of patients treated with TNFa inhibitor to a cohort of general patients or, preferably, patients with RA not treated with TNFa inhibitor, with at least 300 patients per group. If any study did not report exposure time in patient-years, attempts were made to contact the authors, and if the information could not be obtained, the study was excluded. One exception to this rule was for post marketing surveillance data on demyelinating disease with infliximab, where 1 year of exposure time was assumed.

In the equation for number needed to harm (NNT_H), the experimental group event rate is the incidence of a particular adverse event in patients with RA taking a TNFa inhibitor, while the control group event rate was the incidence of that adverse disease process in patients with RA not taking the TNFa inhibitor. The control groups used varied depending on the study design. For cohort studies, the assembled control cohorts of general patients or patients with RA not treated with TNFa were used as the control groups. For clinical trials and postmarketing surveillance studies, they designated the control group to be patients with RA in the general population, preferably, when data was available, those known to have been unexposed to TNFa inhibitors. Authors included safety data from both controlled and open-label extension portions of trials to take into account events that occurred over increased exposure time. To provide the most reliable estimate of the control group event rate, authors considered the most recent and largest study that followed subjects for the longest period of time out of several population-based cohort studies that report the risk of lymphoma in patients with RA. The incidence of TB among U.S. patients with RA was determined from the National Data Bank of Rheumatic Diseases. The incidence of TB in European patients with RA was obtained from a cohort study based on data from the U.K.-based General Practice Research Database. The current literature was stated to lack data to suggest that RA is associated with a higher rate of demyelinating disease, and thus the control event rate was considered to be its incidence in the general population.

Re Schiff 06: Up to 15 April 2005, the date of the analysis, 10 050 patients (12 506 PYs) had participated in adalimumab RA clinical trials and more than 300 of subjects had at least 5 years of exposure to adalimumab. Four of the adalimumab RCTs were published pivotal trial. Patients in the pivotal trials had moderately or severely active, long standing disease (average duration of approximately 11 years), and the majority had failed treatment with prior DMARDs.

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Authors' Conclusions

The risks of serious adverse events are relatively rare and comparable to the risk of death patients take on a regular basis such as driving a car. For many patients with severe psoriasis, the benefits of TNF α inhibitors may greatly outweigh the risks. Depending on the adverse event and study design, the numbers needed to harm ranged from **380 to 360,000 treated patients per year**. Screening prior to the initiation of TNF α inhibitor therapy reduces risk of tuberculosis.

Reviewer Comments

- Authors combined open-label trials with blinded trials.
- Formal assessment of study quality was not conducted – selection, performance attrition, assessment biases were not addressed.
- Lack of preciseness in data; NNHs vary depending upon study type; i.e., risk estimates of ADA, IFX, ETN from post-marketing surveys differ from those from clinical trials which may be due to differing populations, reporting differences or other factors.

Studies and Documents Utilized by Review

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Wolfe F, Michaud K, Anderson J et al. Tuberculosis infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and the effect of infliximab therapy. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2004; 50:372–9.
Wolfe F, Michaud K, Anderson J et al. Tuberculosis infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and the effect of infliximab therapy. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2004; 50:372–9.

STUDY RESULTS

STUDY RESULTS: LYMPHOMA CONTROLLED AND OPEN-LABEL TRIALS UNITED STATES

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence	Control Incidence	RR	NNH
Centocor, Inc. 08	Infliximab in RA	80	73.2	1.1	15,000
Amgen and Wyeth 08	Etanercept in RA	90 (9 of 10,000)		1.2 (95% CI 0.6 to 2.4)	5900
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	120 (15 of 12,506)		1.6 (95% CI 1.0 to 2.7)	2100

Amgen and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Enbrel_ (etanercept) for SubcutaneousInjection [product information]. Amgen and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Thousand Oaks, CA, U.S.A., 2008. Available at:http://www.enbrel.com/pdf/enbrel_pi.pdf (last accessed 7 February 2009).

Centocor, Inc. Remicade_ (infliximab) for IV Injection [product information]. Centocor, Inc., Malvern, PA, U.S.A., 2008. Available at: http://www.remicade.com/remicade/assets/HCP_PPI.pdf (last accessed 7 February 2009).

Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD et al. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2006; 65:889–94.

LYMPHOMA POST-MARKETING SURVEILLANCE

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence	RR	NNH (NNT)
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	40 (~31 of 78,522)	0.6 (95% CI 0.4 to 0.8)	-3000 favors ADA

Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD et al. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2006; 65:889–94.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROLLED AND OPEN-LABEL TRIALS EUROPE

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence	RR	NNH
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA (prior to 1999)	1300 (7 of 534)	57.0	78
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA (after 1999)	325.9 (23 of 7058)	14.2	330

Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD et al. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2006; 65:889–94.

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TUBERCULOSIS COHORT STUDIES

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000	RR	NNH (NNT)
Wolfe 04	Infliximab in RA	52.5 (4 of 7621)	8.5 (95% CI 1.3 to 56.5)	2100
Askling 05	Infliximab in RA	145	4.2	900
Askling 05	Etanercept in RA	80	2.3	2200

Askling J, Forell CM, Brandt L et al. Risk and case characteristics of tuberculosis in rheumatoid arthritis associated with tumor necrosis factor antagonists in Sweden. *Arthritis Rheum* 2005; 52:1986–92.

Wolfe F, Michaud K, Anderson J et al. Tuberculosis infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and the effect of infliximab therapy. *Arthritis Rheum* 2004; 50:372–9.

TUBERCULOSIS POST-MARKETING SURVEILLANCE

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence	RR	NNH (NNT)
Keystone 05	Infliximab in RA	30.2 (90 of 298,240)	4.9 (95% CI 0.9 to 27.9)	4200
Keystone 05	Etanercept in RA	6.83 (26 of 380,700)	1.1	160,000
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	20 (~16 of 78 522)	3.2 (95% CI 0.5 to 19.1)	7200

Keystone EC. Safety of biologic therapies—an update. *J Rheumatol Suppl* 2005; 74:8–12

Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD et al. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2006; 65:889–94.

Reviewer Comments

- The risk of TB in patients taking adalimumab is increased approximately 3-fold compared to the general population.
- The risk of TB in patients taking infliximab is increased approximately 5-fold compared to the general population.
- The risk of TB in patients taking etanercept is not increased when compared to the risk in the general population.

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DEMYELINATING DISEASE CONTROLLED AND OPEN LABEL CLINICAL TRIALS

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000	Control Incidence/100,000 8.0 (from Incidence of MS and ON in US population)	RR	NNH (NNT)
Magnano 04	Infliximab in RA	36.7 (2 of 5443)	8.0	4.6	3500
Fleischmann 06	Etanercept in RA	92.6 (6 of 6479)	8.0	11.6	1200
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	80 (10 of 12,506)	8.0	10.1	50,000

Abbreviations: ON= optic neuritis, MS=multiple sclerosis

Fleischmann R, Baumgartner SW, Weisman MH et al. Long term safety of etanercept in elderly subjects with rheumatic diseases. Ann Rheum Dis 2006; 65:379–84.

Magnano MD, Robinson WH, Genovese MC. Demyelination and inhibition of tumor necrosis factor (TNF). Clin Exp Rheumatol 2004; 22 (Suppl.):S134–40.

Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD et al. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2006; 65:889–94.

DEMYELINATING DISEASE POST-MARKETING SURVEILLANCE

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000	Control Incidence/100,000 8.0(from Incidence of MS and ON in US population)	RR	NNH (NNT)
Magnano 04	Infliximab in RA	2.54 to 5.49 (27 of 492,000)*	8.0	0.7	40,000 (NNT)
Magnano 04	Etanercept in RA	8.28	8.0	1.0	360,000
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	~7.0 (of 78,522)	8.0	1.3	50,000

Abbreviations: ON= optic neuritis, MS=multiple sclerosis

*Assumed 1 year of exposure

Magnano MD, Robinson WH, Genovese MC. Demyelination and inhibition of tumor necrosis factor (TNF). Clin Exp Rheumatol 2004; 22 (Suppl.):S134–40.

Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD et al. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2006; 65:889–94.

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

Dixon 10 BRIT TB REGISTRY FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Dixon 10

Citation: Dixon WG, Hyrich KL, Watson KD, Lunt M, Galloway J, Ustianowski A, Symmons DP. Drug-specific risk of tuberculosis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with anti-TNF therapy: results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR). *Ann Rheum Dis* 2010 Mar;69(3):522-8. PMID: 19854715

Study Type: Registry Cohort and Case-Control

Manufacture Involvement: DPMS and KLH are principal investigators on the BSRBR. BSR receives restricted income from UK pharmaceutical companies, presently Abbott Laboratories, Amgen, Schering Plough and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. This income finances a wholly separate contract between the BSR and the University of Manchester which provides and runs the BSRBR data collection, management and analysis services.

Abstract

BACKGROUND: The risk of tuberculosis (TB) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is thought to be increased following anti-tumour necrosis factor (anti-TNF) therapy, with a proposed differential risk between the anti-TNF drugs etanercept (ETA), infliximab (INF) and adalimumab (ADA). **OBJECTIVE:** To compare directly the risk between drugs, to explore time to event, site of infection and the role of ethnicity.

METHODS: Data from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR), a national prospective observational study, were used to compare TB rates in 10 712 anti-TNF treated patients (3913 ETA, 3295 INF, 3504 ADA) and 3232 patients with active RA treated with traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs.

RESULTS: To April 2008, 40 cases of TB were reported, all in the anti-TNF cohort. The rate of TB was higher for the monoclonal antibodies ADA (144 events/100,000 person-years) and INF (136/100,000 person-years) than for ETA (39/100,000 person-years). After adjustment, the incidence rate ratio compared with ETN-treated patients was 3.1 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.5) for INF and 4.2 (1.4 to 12.4) for ADA. The median time to event was lowest for INF (5.5 months) compared with ETA (13.4 months) and ADA (18.5 months). 13/40 cases occurred after stopping treatment. 25/40 (62%) cases were extrapulmonary, of which 11 were disseminated. Patients of non-white ethnicity had a sixfold increased risk of TB compared with white patients treated with anti-TNF therapy.

CONCLUSION: The rate of TB in patients with RA treated with anti-TNF therapy was three- to fourfold higher in patients receiving INF and ADA than in those receiving ETA. "We have confirmed that the monoclonal antibodies INF and ADA are associated with a three- to fourfold higher rate of TB compared with ETA. Although no direct comparison with the DMARD cohort was possible, the expected number of cases (n=10) in the DMARD cohort based on the rate seen in the anti-TNF cohort versus the observed (n=0) suggests that anti-TNF therapy confers a significant risk in patients with active RA."

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab in RA
- Large national prospective registry to study long-term safety of exposure to biologic agents in patients with RA.
- Assumably a voluntary registry as, in 2001 it was "recommended" that patients "should be registered."
- Patients were recruited to the ETA and INF cohorts from 2001 onwards. Recruitment to the ADA cohort started later because of its more recent launch date. Recruitment targets of 4000 patients for the ETA cohort were met in 2005, for INF in 2007 and for ADA in 2008.
- Authors state that they estimate that the registry includes over 80% of anti-TNF treated patients; however, they provide no details of how this estimate was made.
- Analysis was restricted to patients with a doctor's diagnosis of RA. All patients had to have at least one returned consultant follow-up questionnaire before 31 March 2008. The anti-TNF cohort comprised patients starting an anti-TNF drug as their first biological drug. A comparison cohort of biologic-naive patients with active RA was recruited in parallel (patients with active disease despite current treatment with a traditional DMARD and biologic naive).
- Followup data: 6-monthly rheumatologist questionnaire, 6-monthly patient diary and by "flagging" with the UK Office for National Statistics which provided information on mortality, including cause of death. If active TB was reported from any source, further information, including site of infection and supporting evidence for diagnosis (clinical/radiological/microbiological/histopathological), was requested from the rheumatologist. Patient-reported cases of TB were only included in the analysis if later verified by a consultant.
- Baseline characteristics varied in the groups. Analyses examining the influence of ethnicity were performed after adjustment for age, gender and calendar year and after exclusion of patients with missing ethnicity data. Multiple variable regression was performed with additional confounders identified from an *a priori* list of possible confounders, including smoking, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/asthma, prior TB, disease severity (Health Assessment Questionnaire, DAS28 and disease duration as continuous variables), number of prior DMARDs, baseline steroid use, and methotrexate use (as a time varying covariate). Authors state they identified true confounders by sequentially including each confounder in the regression model, and including in the multiple variable regression those confounders that individually changed the estimation after adjustment by more than 10%.
- Assessors were not blinded.

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- Comparison patients also contributed person-years from their registration date until their most recent completed consultant follow-up or death, whichever came sooner. Patients in the comparison cohort who switched to an anti-TNF drug contributed person-years to the comparison cohort up to the date the anti-TNF drug was started and subsequent follow-up to the anti-TNF cohort. Conversely, patients initially registered in the anti-TNF cohort could not subsequently contribute person-years to the comparison cohort after stopping anti-TNF therapy.
- Sensitivity analyses were conducted excluding time after the first diagnosis of TB, and restricting analyses to the first anti-TNF drug. Between-drug comparisons led to a statistically significantly increased rate of TB for both monoclonal antibodies compared with ETA, using the “most recent drug” model. Seven cases of TB occurred after treatment with a second or third anti-TNF drug. Of these, two occurred with ADA, one with ETA, three after discontinuing ADA and one after discontinuing ETA. When sensitivity analyses were performed excluding time periods following switching the between-drug adjusted IRRs were largely unchanged.

Observational Studies of Tuberculosis in RA Patients Treated with IFX, ADA and ETN (Dixon 10)

Drug (N)	Cases	Rate TB	IRR (Compared To ETN)
ADA (3,504)	11	144/100,000	3.1 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.5)
IFX (3259)	11	136/100,000	4.2 (95% CI 1.4 to 12.4)
ETN (3913)	5	39/100,000	Reference Agent

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Dixon BRIT infection ra REGISTRY 06 and 07 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Dixon 07

Citation: Dixon WG, Symmons DP, Lunt M, Watson KD, Hyrich KL, Silman AJ. Serious infection following anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha therapy in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: lessons from interpreting data from observational studies. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007 Sep;56(9):2896-904. PMID: 17763441

Study Type: Registry Cohort (the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register[BSRBR]), Serious Infection, Mortality

Manufacture Involvement: DPS and KLH are principal investigators on the BSRBR. BSR receives restricted income from UK pharmaceutical companies, presently Abbott Laboratories, Amgen, Schering Plough and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. This income finances a wholly separate contract between the BSR and the University of Manchester which provides and runs the BSRBR data collection, management and analysis services.

Abstract

Objective. In a recent observational study, we found that the risk of serious infection following anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha (anti-TNF α) therapy in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was not importantly increased compared with the background risk in routinely treated RA patients with similar disease severity (Dixon 06 –see below). Observational data sets are, however, subject to a number of important biases related to selection factors for the timing of starting and stopping therapy. Infection risk is also likely to vary with duration of therapy. This study was undertaken to examine the influences of these biases and of the method of analysis on the risk of infection.

Methods. We compared the risk of serious infection in 8,659 patients treated with anti-TNF α with that in 2,170 patients treated with traditional disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) recruited to the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. We applied a number of statistical models in which we varied the length of the followup period by using different definitions of the date of discontinuation of treatment and different lag periods of risk following drug cessation.

Results. When the at-risk period was defined as “receiving treatment”, the adjusted incidence rate ratio comparing patients receiving anti-TNF α therapy with patients receiving DMARD therapy was 1.22 (95% confidence interval [95% CI] 0.88–1.69). Limiting followup to the first 90 days, however, revealed an adjusted incidence rate ratio of 4.6 (95% CI 1.8–11.9). Rates of infection were increased in the 90 days immediately following drug discontinuation and beyond, explained by selection factors for drug discontinuation.

Conclusion. These findings show that overall, the way in which UK rheumatologists select patients for starting and discontinuing anti-TNF α therapy explains our previous finding of no increase in risk. However, there may be important increases in true risk, notably early in the course of treatment, that would become more evident depending on the definition of at-risk period. [See IRR table below.]

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab in RA
- Large national prospective registry to study long-term safety of exposure to biologic agents in patients with RA.
- Patients were recruited to the ETA and INF cohorts from 2001 onwards. Recruitment to the ADA cohort started later because of its more recent launch date. Recruitment targets of 4000 patients for the ETA cohort were met in 2005, for INF in 2007 and for ADA in 2008.
- All patients are followed up using 3 parallel methods. First, consultants are sent a questionnaire every 6 months, requesting details of all changes in therapy and all adverse events that have occurred in that period. Second, patients are sent a 6-month diary in which to document all hospital admissions, new medications, and new hospital referrals. Third, all patients are flagged with the UK General Register Office, which provides the BSRBR with information on deaths.
- Serious infections, reported from any of these 3 sources, are defined as those that led to death or hospitalization or required intravenous antibiotics.
- There were 10,755 patients included in the analysis (8,659 treated with anti-TNF α and 2,170 treated with DMARDs only). Seventy four patients switched from the DMARD cohort to the anti-TNF α cohort and were included in both groups. The DMARD cohort included proportionally more men, and patients in this cohort were older and, as expected, had less severe disease.
- Risk of infection while receiving therapy. There were 1,089 serious infections in total: 114 in the comparison cohort and 975 in the anti-TNF α cohort, 737 occurring while the patients were receiving therapy. Using the “receiving treatment” model of analysis, the crude rate of serious infection was 39.2 per 1,000 person-years in the DMARD cohort and 55.5 per 1,000 person-years in the anti-TNF α cohort, ranging from 50.4 to 63.0 events per 1,000 person-years in the 3 anti-TNF α drug cohorts. Baseline characteristics of the anti-TNF α cohort were compared with those of the DMARD cohort, using Wilcoxon’s rank sum tests for continuous variables and chi-square tests for categorical outcomes.
- Rates of serious infection per 1,000 person-years were calculated using a large series of assumptions relating to the issues of starting and stopping drugs and duration of therapy. Assessors were not blinded. Patients in the comparison cohort who switched to an anti-TNF α drug contributed person-years to the comparison cohort up to the date the anti-TNF α drug was started and subsequent follow-up to the anti-TNF α cohort. Conversely, patients initially registered in the anti-TNF α cohort could not subsequently contribute person-years to the comparison cohort after stopping anti-TNF α therapy.
- Three models of serious infection rates in patients receiving IFX, ADA and ETN appear in the table below with IFX demonstrating a statistically significant increased IRR in model C. Plausible models of risk over time include increased risk of an adverse event on initial exposure, constant risk with ongoing drug exposure, or increasing risk with cumulative exposure to the drug. The pattern of risk is likely to differ according to the adverse event considered. An infusion reaction may be more likely to occur early in the course of therapy, whereas a malignancy may be related to cumulative drug exposure. For any given adverse event, the overall risk pattern may

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be a composite of multiple patterns. For example in patients who have a serious infection while receiving anti-TNF therapy, clinicians may decide whether treatment should be resumed, based on their opinion of further infection risk. Thus, there could be a “healthy drug continuers” or “depletion of susceptibles” effect, and restricting analysis to those who continue the drug selectively retains those at the lowest risk. The authors state that although it is important to be specific about aspects such as time period of interest during therapy, the choice of stop date, selection factors for both starting and discontinuing therapy may seriously compromise interpretation in registry studies.

Incidence Rate Ratios (IRR) (Comparator is Traditional DMARDs Group) with 3 Models

Category	IFX	ADA	ETN
Infections per patient years in models A,B,C	317/5,034, 354/5,226 405/5,874	112/2,221 127/2,323 138/2,548	308/6,021 361/6,274 432/ 6,998
Adjusted IRR (95% CI) model A (receiving Rx)	1.28 (95% CI 0.91 to 1.81)	1.17 (95% CI 0.81 to 1.69)	1.15 (95% CI 0.82 to 1.61)
Adjusted IRR (95% CI) model B (receiving Rx plus 90 day window lag)	1.35 (95% CI 0.97 to 1.89)	1.24 (95% CI 0.87 to 1.78)	1.26 (95% CI 0.91 to 1.74)
Adjusted IRR (95% CI) model C (ever received Rx)	1.41 (95% CI 1.02 to 1.97)	1.25 (95% CI 0.88 to 1.77)	1.34 (95% CI 0.97 to 1.86)

Abstract Dixon 06: Updated Above

Objective. To determine whether the rate of serious infection is higher in anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF)-treated rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients compared with RA patients treated with traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).

Methods. This was a national prospective observational study of 7,664 anti-TNF-treated and 1,354 DMARD-treated patients with severe RA from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. All serious infections, stratified by site and organism, were included in the analysis.

Results. Between December 2001 and September 2005, there were 525 serious infections in the anti-TNF-treated cohort and 56 in the comparison cohort (9,868 and 1,352 person-years of followup, respectively). The incidence rate ratio (IRR), adjusted for baseline risk, for the anti-TNF-treated cohort compared with the comparison cohort was 1.03 (95% confidence interval 0.68–1.57). However, the frequency of serious skin and soft tissue infections was increased in anti-TNF-treated patients, with an adjusted IRR of 4.28 (95% confidence interval 1.06–17.17). There was no difference in infection risk between the 3 main anti-TNF drugs. Nineteen serious bacterial intracellular infections occurred, exclusively in patients in the anti-TNF-treated cohort.

Conclusion. In patients with active RA, anti-TNF therapy was not associated with increased risk of overall serious infection compared with DMARD treatment, after adjustment for baseline risk. In contrast, the rate of serious skin and soft tissue infections was increased, suggesting an important physiologic role of TNF in host defense in the skin and soft tissues beyond that in other tissues.

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EMERY GOL RCT 09 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Emery 09

Citation: Emery P, Fleischmann RM, Moreland LW, Hsia EC, Strusberg I, Durez P, Nash P, Amante EJ, Churchill M, Park W, Pons-Estel BA, Doyle MK, Visvanathan S, Xu W, Rahman MU. Golimumab, a human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody, injected subcutaneously every four weeks in methotrexate-naive patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: twenty-four-week results of a phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of golimumab before methotrexate as first-line therapy for early-onset rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009 Aug;60(8):2272-83. PMID: 19644849

Study Type: RCT

Agents of Interest: Golimumab in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Safety Outcomes: Reported adverse events

Manufacture Involvement: Supported by Centocor Research and Development (a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson) and Schering-Plough Research Institute. Data were collected by the investigators and entered into a Centocor database. Centocor statisticians and programmers conducted the analyses, and members of the steering committee, with the assistance of a medical writer, prepared the manuscript.

RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM PUBLISHED ABSTRACT AND TEXT

Objective. To assess the safety and efficacy of golimumab in methotrexate (MTX)-naive patients with active rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods. MTX-naive patients with RA (n = 637) were randomized to receive placebo plus MTX (group 1), golimumab 100 mg plus placebo (group 2), golimumab 50 mg plus MTX (group 3), or golimumab 100 mg plus MTX (group 4). Subcutaneous injections of golimumab or placebo were administered every 4 weeks. The dosage of MTX/placebo capsules started at 10 mg/week and escalated to 20 mg/week. The primary end point, the proportion of patients meeting the American College of Rheumatology 50% improvement criteria (achieving an ACR50 response) at week 24, required significant differences between groups 3 and 4 combined (combined group) versus group 1 and significant differences in a pairwise comparison (group 3 or group 4 versus group 1).

Results. Serious adverse events occurred in 7%, 3%, 6%, and 6% of patients in groups 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

- Serious infections (percent) were 3 (1.9), 2 (1.3), 2 (1.3), 7 (4.4) in groups 1, 2, 3, 4 respectively.
- Discontinuations of study agent due to adverse events (percent) in subcutaneous study agent occurred in 2 (1.3), 1 (0.6), 6 (3.8), 7 (4.4) in groups 1, 2, 3, 4 respectively.
- Numbers of malignancies, serious adverse event totals were small and similar in the groups.

Conclusion. The incidence of serious adverse events and serious infections was low and similar across treatment groups, with the exception of a seemingly higher incidence of serious infections with golimumab 100 mg plus MTX (4.4%) versus the other treatments (1.3–1.9%). It is noteworthy that the relatively small number of patients evaluated and the lack of power to detect treatment group differences in individual safety events preclude drawing definitive conclusions regarding these safety findings.

Reviewer Comments

- All subjects included in safety analysis
- Interactive voice system for randomization
- Reported safety outcomes
- Underpowered for detecting safety differences if they existed.

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FAVALLI 09 infection registry Italy 3 drugs_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Favalli 09

Citation: Favalli EG, Desiati F, Atzeni F, Sarzi-Puttini P, Caporali R, Pallavicini FB, Gorla R, Filippini M, Marchesoni A. Serious infections during anti-TNF α treatment in rheumatoid arthritis patients. Autoimmun Rev 2009 Jan;8(3):266-73.PMID: 19022409

Study Type: Retrospective Cohort Study from: Italian Lombardy Rheumatology Network (LORHEN) Registry Infection

Manufacture Involvement: No information

Abstract

The objective was to estimate the incidence of serious infections in the patients treated with anti-TNF α agents for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) recorded in the Lombardy Rheumatology Network (LORHEN) registry. The study inclusion criteria were met by 1064 of the 1114 patients with long-standing RA, 519 treated with infliximab, 303 with adalimumab, and 242 with etanercept; their mean age was 55.8 years and the mean duration of RA 9.4 years.

Seventy-three patients (6.9%) experienced a total of 74 serious infections, an incidence rate for all treatment courses of 35.9 per 1000 patient-years (95% confidence interval [95% CI] 27.66– 44.13). Most were lower respiratory tract (34.2%) or skin and soft tissue infections (20.5%). Of the 1064 patients, the 790 treated with anti-TNF α after March 2002 underwent screening tests for LTBI; five patients developed active tuberculosis. Three patients died of septic shock. The type of anti-TNF α agent did not seem to affect the incidence or site of the infections.

Both univariate and multivariate analyses identified age at the start of anti-TNF α treatment ($p=0.008$), baseline erythrocyte sedimentation rate ([ESR] $p=0.014$), and the concomitant use of corticosteroids ($p=0.029$) as significant predictors of infections.

There was no statistically significant difference in risk between the anti-TNF α agents.

Reviewer Comments

- Infectious adverse events are common in patients with rheumatic diseases and it has been reported that the rate of infections in the RA population is nearly twice as high as that observed in matched non-RA controls [8] Doran MF, Crowson CS, Pond GR, O'Fallon WM, Gabriel SE. Frequency of infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis compared with controls. A population-based study. Arthritis Rheum 2002;9:2287–93.
- LORHEN is a regional population-based registry that was established with the aim of examining the efficacy and safety of TNF α blockers in the everyday treatment of RA. LORHEN contains a cohort of all of the RA patients treated with anti- TNF α agents in four major Rheumatology Units in Lombardy (Italy) since 1999.
- This analysis covers the first 36 months from the date of the first administered dose (median follow-up: 23.22 months for etanercept, 21.26 months for adalimumab, 29.88 months for infliximab, and 24.21 months for the patients as a whole). Total exposure to anti-TNF treatment was 2033.62 person/ years (430.09 for etanercept, 524.00 for adalimumab, and 1079.53 for infliximab).
- The patients were considered at risk of serious infection from the date of the start of the first anti-TNF α drug (baseline) to the date of the first occurrence of the event or the last date of follow-up within 36 months, regardless of any treatment discontinuation or switch.
- Fifty patients were lost to follow-up during the first six months of treatment, and so 1064 patients (83.2% women) were considered for the safety analysis.
- Recorded infections were categorised as “serious” (defined as life-threatening, requiring hospitalization and/or intravenous antibiotic therapy, or leading to significant disability/ incapacity or a comparable significant risk)

RESULTS	Infliximab	Adalimumab	Etanercept
	N= 519 (48.8%)	N=303 (28.5%)	N=242 (22.7%)
Incidence rate (IR): number of events per 1000 patient-years			
Any serious infection	38.91 (95% CI 27.14 to 50.67)	38.17 (95% CI 21.44 to 54.90)	25.58 (95% CI 10.46 to 40.69)

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FLEISCHMANN 09_SMOLEN 09_KEYSTONE 08a_CZP

AUTHORS YR: FLEISCHMANN 09, SMOLEN 09, KEYSTONE 08a

Citations: Fleischmann R, Vencovsky J, van Vollenhoven RF, Borenstein D, Box J, Coteur G, Goel N, Brezinschek HP, Innes A, Strand V. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol monotherapy every 4 weeks in patients with rheumatoid arthritis failing previous disease-modifying antirheumatic therapy: the FAST4WARD study. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 Jun;68(6):805-11. Epub 2008 Nov 17. PubMed PMID: 19015206; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2674555.

Smolen J, Landewé RB, Mease P, Brzezicki J, Mason D, Luijckens K, van Vollenhoven RF, Kavanaugh A, Schiff M, Burmester GR, Strand V, Vencovsky J, van der Heijde D. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate in active rheumatoid arthritis: the RAPID 2 study. A randomised controlled trial. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 Jun;68(6):797-804. Epub 2008 Nov 17. PubMed PMID: 19015207.

Keystone E, Heijde D, Mason D Jr, Landewé R, Vollenhoven RV, Combe B, Emery P, Strand V, Mease P, Desai C, Pavelka K. Certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate is significantly more effective than placebo plus methotrexate in active rheumatoid arthritis: findings of a fifty-two-week, phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2008 Nov;58(11):3319-29. Erratum in: *Arthritis Rheum.* 2009 May;60(5):1249. PubMed PMID: 18975346.

Study Type: RCTs

Manufacture Involvement

Fleischmann 09: UCB contributed to the design, conduct and reporting of the study.

Smolen 09: The RAPID 2 study was fully funded by UCB, Inc. 2 authors were employees of UCB.

Keystone 08a: "Supported by UCB Inc."

Abstracts not included here.

Reviewer Comments

Based on 3 relevant trials totalling 1785 patients from searches up to 11/15/10: Trials provide weak signals of increased serious infection including tuberculosis, increased injection-site reactions, malignancy and increased withdrawal due to adverse events in patients taking CZP compared to placebo. The trials were underpowered to detect statistically significant differences.

Results

Reference	Population and N	Intervention	Safety Findings	Reviewer Comments
Fleischmann 09 FAST4WARD	Fleischmann 09 Months:6 N:220 Age: ~54 Duration: ~9.5 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: 59/56 % on NSAIDs:NR HAQ score:1.6/1.4	Placebo + MTX N=109 CZP 400mg 4 weekly N-111	PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 2 (1.8%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: NR SERIOUS AEs: 2.8% PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 5 (4.5%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 2 (4 cases per 100 pt years) OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTION:0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:4.5% SERIOUS AEs: 7.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No P values

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<p>Keystone 08a RAPID 1</p>	<p>Keystone 2008(RAPID1) [25]/ Strand ACR 2007 946[26] Months:12 N:982 Age: ~52 Duration: ~6 years Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: NR % on NSAIDs: NR HAQ score:~1.7</p>	<p>Placebo + MTX N=199</p> <p>CZP 200mg to 400mg 2 weekly sc. +MTX N=783</p>	<p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:1 (1.1 per 100 patient-years) DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (3.3) SERIOUS INFECTION: (2.2) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 0 SERIOUS AEs: 12%</p> <p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB (0.85) INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:11 (2.3 per 100 patient-years) DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 7 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (6.3) SERIOUS INFECTION:(6.3) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:(0.8 and 2.3%) SERIOUS AEs: 15%</p>	<p>Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes for assessor reading radiographs; No other details N Safety Placebo + MTX: 190/199 N Safety CZP + MTX: 781/783</p> <p>Potential weak signal of increased malignancy, serious infection, withdrawal due to adverse events.</p>
<p>Smolen 09 RAPID 2</p>	<p>Smolen EULAR 2009(RAPID2)[27]/ Landewe ACR 2009[28]/ Strand Months:6 N:619 Age: ~52 Duration: ~6 years Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: 59 % on NSAIDs: NR HAQ score:1.6</p>	<p>Placebo + MTX N=127</p> <p>CZP 200mg 2 weekly sc. + placebo; N=246 CZP 400mg 2 weekly sc. + placebo; N=246</p>	<p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 2 (1.6) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 0 SERIOUS AEs: 3.2%</p> <p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:5 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:2 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 2 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 15(3.45) SERIOUS INFECTION:14 (2.2) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:8 (1.6) SERIOUS AEs: 7.3%</p>	<p>Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: No details N Safety Placebo + MTX: 125/127 N Safety CZP + MTX: 492/492</p> <p>Potential weak signal of serious infections including tuberculosis, withdrawal due to adverse events.</p>

Reviewer Comments

- Search: NLM, Cochrane, Embase. Following the search, a total of three full papers were included in the evidence base, one phase II trial and two phase III trials. The search on PubMed was updated on June 1st, 2009.
- Delfini search detected one additional RCT (Smolen 09).
- Underpowered to reliably demonstrate safety differences in groups if one existed.

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GALLOWAY 10_Registry_British_Infection_3Agents_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Galloway 10

Citation: Galloway JB, Hyrich KL, Mercer LK, Dixon WG, Fu B, Ustianowski AP, Watson KD, Lunt M; BSRBR Control Centre Consortium, Symmons DP; on behalf of the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Anti-TNF therapy is associated with an increased risk of serious infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis especially in the first 6 months of treatment: updated results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register with special emphasis on risks in the elderly. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2010 Jul 31. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20675706.

Study Type: Registry Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: The registry receives financial support from a variety of manufacturers; however, there is no other manufacturer involvement.

Abstract

Objectives

To evaluate the risk of serious infections (SIs) in patients with RA treated with anti-TNF therapy with emphasis on the risk across different ages.

Methods

Using data from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register, a prospective observational study, we compared the risk of SI between 11,798 anti-TNF-treated patients and 3,598 non-biologic DMARD (non-biologic DMARD)-treated patients.

Results

A total of 1808 patients had at least one SI (anti-TNF: 1512; non-biologic DMARD: 296). Incidence rates were: anti-TNF 42/1000 patient-years of follow-up (95% CI 40, 44) and non-biologic DMARD 32/1000 patient-years of follow-up (95% CI 28, 36). The adjusted hazard ratio (adjHR) for SI in the anti-TNF cohort was 1.2 (95% CI 1.1, 1.5). The risk did not differ significantly between the three agents adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab. The risk was highest during the first 6 months of therapy [adjHR 1.8 (95% CI 1.3, 2.6)]. Although increasing age was an independent risk factor for SI in both cohorts, there was no difference in relative risk of infection in patients on anti-TNF therapy in the older population. There was no difference in hospital stay for SI between cohorts. Mortality within 30 days of SI was 50% lower in the anti-TNF cohort [odds ratio 0.5 (95% CI 0.3, 0.8)]. Conclusions. These data add to currently available evidence suggesting that anti-TNF therapy is associated with a small but significant overall risk of SI. This must be balanced against the risks associated with poor disease control or alternative treatments.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab in RA
- Large national prospective registry to study long-term safety of exposure to biologic agents in patients with RA.
- Assumably a voluntary registry as, in 2001 it was "recommended" that patients "should be registered."
- Authors state that they estimate that the registry includes over 80% of anti-TNF treated patients; however, they provide no details of how this estimate was made.
- Difference in length of time data between agents evaluated. Patients were recruited to etanercept (ETN) and infliximab (INF) cohorts from 2001 onwards; recruitment to adalimumab (ADA) cohort began in 2003.
- Comparison cohort of biologic-naïve patients with active RA were recruited in parallel.
- Difference in location of patients and care centers between study and comparison group. Study group was recruited across the whole of the United Kingdom (UK) in over 250 hospitals. Controls were recruited from 29 centers. However, those centers were distributed across the UK and included a mix of secondary and tertiary care rheumatology units in both urban and rural settings and in affluent and deprived areas.
- Data was collected via questionnaires to care providers and patients and via death registries. Serious infections (Sis) were defined as those requiring i.v. antibiotics or hospitalization, or those resulting in death. This analysis was confined to cases that were reported or verified by the patient's rheumatologist. Thus, patient-reported SIs were only included in the analysis if later verified by a consultant. Events were ascribed to the anti-TNF agent if they occurred while the patient was receiving anti-TNF therapy or within 90 days of the first missed dose. Events were attributed to the most recent drug in patients who switched anti-TNF therapy. Patients were censored from this analysis after their first episode of SI.
- 3366 (22%) of patients switched biologics during the follow-up period.
- Disease activity was higher in the anti-TNF cohort.
- Authors state characteristics were similar across the three anti-TNF agents at baseline.
- Missing baseline data were filled in using multiple imputations. Authors do not report the amount of missing data.
- Baseline steroid exposure was different between the study cohort and comparison cohort, rising with increasing age with 18% of non-biologic DMARD cohort and 40% of anti-TNF cohort aged <55 years receiving steroid at baseline, compared with 36% of the non-biologic DMARD cohort and 55% of the anti-TNF cohort aged > 75 years.
- The highest crude SI rate was seen with INF [46/1000 (95% CI 42 to 50)], followed by ADA [43/1000 (95% CI 39 to 47)] and ETN [38/1000 (95% CI 35 to 42)]. However, in the adjusted analysis, there was no significant difference in SI rates between the three anti-TNF agents. The analysis was also performed excluding patients who switched biologic (censoring them at the time of first switch):

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adjHR 1.2 (95% CI 1.0 to 1.4).

- Authors point out that, “Patients who commence and respond to anti-TNF are likely to require less steroids during their follow-up period (and the converse may be true with the non-biologic DMARD cohort). If this is the case, our adjusted model may be underestimating the effect of anti-TNF.”
- Authors point out that presenting a single estimate for risk of SI is misleading as the risk is not consistent over time. This may be due to patients being taken off an anti-TNF agent when experiencing an outcome, with the end result that the remaining pool contains patients at reduced risk.
- Authors found no significant difference in risk between the three agents for overall SIs, either in first 6 months or overall.
- The risk did not differ significantly between the three agents: adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab. Rate/1000 patient years was 32 (95% CI 28 to 36) for non-biological DMARDs, 38 (95% CI 35 to 42) for ETN, 46 (95% CI 42 to 50) for IFX and 43 (95% CI 39 to 47) for ADA. The risk was highest during the first 6 months of therapy [adjHR 1.8 (95% CI 1.3 to 2.6)].

Risk of Serious Infections in RA Patients Receiving ADA or IFX

SOURCE	COMPARATORS	OUTCOMES	REVIEWER COMMENTS
Galloway 10 British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR)		INCIDENCE RATES PER 1000 PATIENT-YRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11,798 anti-TNF-treated RA patients • 3,598 patients treated with traditional DMARDs • Largest registry study to date
	IFX	46/1,000 (95% CI 42 to 50)	
	ADA	43/1,000 (95% CI 39 to 47)	
	ETN	38/1,000 (95% CI 35 to 42)	
	Non-biologic DMARDs	32/1000 (95% CI 28 to 36)	

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GARTLEHNER 06 meta IFX ETN FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Gartlehner 06

Citation: Gartlehner G, Hansen RA, Jonas BL, Thieda P, Lohr KN. The comparative efficacy and safety of biologics for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review and metaanalysis. J Rheumatol. 2006 Dec;33(12):2398-408. Review. PubMed PMID: 17225293.

Study Type: Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement: None

Abstract

Objective. Biologics are an important therapeutic option for treating patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, they are associated with rare but severe adverse events such as serious infections, lymphoma, or chronic heart failure. In addition, dosing regimens and routes of administration differ substantially among biologics. In a systematic review, we assessed the comparative efficacy and safety of biologic agents for RA.

Methods. We searched electronic databases up to May 2006. We limited evidence to controlled trials for efficacy but included observational evidence for safety. Outcomes of interest were clinical response, radiographic progression, and quality of life. Given the paucity of head-to-head evidence, we conducted adjusted, indirect comparisons of placebo-controlled trials.

Results. Twenty-six controlled trials provided efficacy data; 18 additional studies assessed safety. The only evidence directly comparing 2 biologic agents was a nonrandomized, open-label trial that found no differences in effectiveness and safety between etanercept and infliximab. Adjusted indirect comparisons indicate no significant differences in efficacy between anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) drugs. However, anti-TNF drugs appear to be more efficacious than anakinra, although not all comparisons reached statistical significance. Because of the lack of sound longterm safety data, evidence is insufficient to draw firm conclusions about the comparative safety of biologics.

Conclusion. Anti-TNF drugs appear to be more efficacious than anakinra but do not differ significantly among each other. Clinical considerations such as comorbidities, route of administration, dosing regimens, and specific side effect profiles may guide the choice of an anti-TNF drug. (First Release Nov 1 2006; J Rheumatol 2006;33:2398-408)

Reviewer Comments

Injection Site Reactions Percent based on data from 26 controlled trials and 18 additional studies; 5 ADA trials; 4 ETN trials

- ADA: 18.98 (95% CI 9.21 to 28.76)
- ETN: 24.67 (95% CI 11.21 to 38.13)
- Superseded by Thaler 09 with 7 RCTs
- Most infusion reactions associated with IFX will be mild (e.g., headache, dizziness, nausea, pruritus, chills, or fever). However, severe acute reactions (e.g., reactions resembling anaphylactic conditions or associated with convulsions) have been reported in 0.5% to 3.7% of patients.

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Gomez-Reino 07 TB 3 drugs FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Gomez-Reino 07

Citation: Gomez-Reino JJ, Carmona L, Angel Descalzo M. Risk of tuberculosis in patients treated with tumor necrosis factor antagonists due to incomplete prevention of reactivation of latent infection. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007 Jun 15;57(5):756-61. PMID: 17530674

Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab

Study Type: Registry Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: Authors have received consultancy fees from relevant manufacturers which had no role in the study. The RATIO Registry support includes unrestricted industry grant funding from mixed sources.

Abstract

Objective. To evaluate the causes of new cases of active tuberculosis (ATB) in patients treated with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists included in the national registry BIOBADASER (Base de Datos de Productos Biologicos de la Sociedad Espanola de Reumatologia) after the dissemination of recommendations to prevent reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). **Methods.** Incidence rate of ATB per 100,000 patient-years and 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) were calculated in patients entering BIOBADASER after March 2002 and were stratified by compliance with recommendations (complete or incomplete). ATB rates in BIOBADASER were compared with the background rate and the rate in the rheumatoid arthritis cohort EMECAR (Estudio de la Morbilidad y Expresión Clínica de la Artritis Reumatoide) not treated with TNF antagonists. In addition, rates of ATB among patients treated with adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab were estimated and compared only for treatments started after September 2003, when all 3 drugs became fully available.

Results. Following March 2002, a total of 5,198 patients treated with a TNF antagonist were registered in BIOBADASER. Fifteen ATB cases were noted (rate 172 per 100,000 patient-years, 95% CI 103–285). Recommendations were fully followed in 2,655 treatments. The probability of developing ATB was 7 times higher when recommendations were not followed (incidence rate ratio 7.09, 95% CI 1.60–64.69). Two-step tuberculosis skin test for LTBI was the major failure in complying with recommendations. **Conclusion.** New cases of ATB still occur in patients treated with all available TNF antagonists due to lack of compliance with recommendations to prevent reactivation of LTBI. Continuous evaluation of recommendations is required to improve clinical practice.

Notes on the Registry

A detailed description of BIOBADASER has been previously published (3) and is also available at <http://biobadaser.ser.es/>. In brief, BIOBADASER is a registry established in February 2000 for active long-term followup of the safety of biologic response modifiers. The registry, which is supported by the SER and funded, in part, by the Spanish Medicines Agency, notes relevant adverse events occurring during and after treatment. BIOBADASER registers patients with rheumatic diseases being treated with any of the currently approved biologic response modifiers, and comprises ~50% of this group of patients in Spain. Patients treated with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, anakinra, and rituximab have been included up to the present. The following data are collected systematically: 1) patient data including sex, date of birth, diagnosis, and date of diagnosis; 2) data on treatment, including type, start date, and discontinuation date together with reason for discontinuation, if applicable; and 3) data regarding adverse events, such as type, date of occurrence, outcome, comorbid conditions, and concomitant medication. Starting March 1, 2002, when recommendations regarding prevention of reactivation of LTBI in patients treated with TNF antagonists were issued, results from TST, chest radiograph, and therapy for LTBI were also registered. Incompleteness and agreement of data with patient charts are assessed on site by annual audits of random samples of 10% of all registered patients. A total of 665 clinical records from 82 centers were reviewed in the last audit before the present analysis; 14% of the records contained errors. All errors were corrected accordingly, yielding an expected underreporting of 11% of discontinuations or adverse events. Data on 12 centers that did not report relevant data actively in the last 2 years and that were detected after random monitoring were censored at the last valid data entry. For the purpose of the present analysis, full compliance was considered when 1) INH treatment was started in patients with a TST result ≥ 5 mm (either the first test or the retest); 2) INH treatment was started in patients with a chest radiograph compatible with past tuberculosis; and 3) TST retest was performed following a negative TST result, or chest radiograph was performed despite negative TST and TST retest results. In all other cases, recommendations were considered to be incompletely followed. Recording of adverse events is done online. An ATB compliance with recommendations (complete or incomplete). ATB rates in BIOBADASER were compared with the rate in Spain (4) and the rate in a previously described cohort of patients with RA not exposed to TNF. In any case, rates were compared to estimate the relative risk of ATB. Incidence rate ratio (IRR) was calculated as IR of the exposed group divided by IR of the nonexposed group. In addition, the rate of ATB among patients treated with adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab was estimated and compared only for treatments started after September 2003, when all 3 drugs became fully available.

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Summary

In a Spanish registry study (Gomez-Reino 07) that evaluated new cases of active tuberculosis after March 2002 in patients treated with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists included in the national registry BIOBADASER (Base de Datos de Productos Biologicos de la Sociedad Espanola de Reumatologia) after the dissemination of recommendations to prevent reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), the risk of TB ADA, ETA and INF were:

Agent	Cases/subjects (time to develop)	Incidence per 100 000/yr (95% CI)
INF	IFX: 5/1303 (1.2 to 8.7 mos)	383 (159 to 921)
ADA	ADA: 1/565 (14 mos)	176 (24 to 1245)
ETA	ETN: 2/1740 (<2.5 mos)	114 (28 to 459)

The authors reported an IRR of developing active tuberculosis for the nonadherent group of 5.346 (95% CI 1.29 to 22.21).

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GOTTLIEB UST PsA RCT 04 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Gottlieb 04

Citation: Gottlieb AB, Evans R, Li S, Dooley LT, Guzzo CA, Baker D, Bala M, Marano CW, Menter A. Infliximab induction therapy for patients with severe plaque-type psoriasis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2004 Oct;51(4):534-42. PubMed PMID: 15389187.

Study Type: RCT

Agents of Interest: IFX in psoriasis

Safety Outcomes: Reported adverse events

Manufacture Involvement: Drs Gottlieb and Menter have received research support from and served as consultants for Centocor Inc. Drs Baker, Bala, Dooley, Evans, Guzzo, and Marano, and Ms Li, are employees of Centocor Inc.

RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM PUBLISHED ABSTRACT AND TEXT

Background: Tumor necrosis factor is a key mediator in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. Infliximab is a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to tumor necrosis factor- α , blocking its biologic activity.

Objective: The purpose of this study was to assess the efficacy and safety of infliximab induction therapy for patients with severe plaque psoriasis.

Methods: In this multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial, 249 patients with severe plaque psoriasis were randomly assigned to receive intravenous infusions of either 3 or 5 mg/kg of infliximab or placebo given at weeks 0, 2, and 6. The primary end point was the proportion of patients who achieved at least 75% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index score from baseline at week 10. At week 26, patients whose Physician Global Assessment indicated moderate or severe disease were eligible for a single intravenous infusion of their assigned treatment to assess the safety of retreatment after a 20-week, treatment-free interval.

Results: At week 10, 72% of patients treated with infliximab (3 mg/kg) and 88% of patients treated with infliximab (5 mg/kg) achieved a 75% or greater improvement from baseline in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index score compared with 6% of patients treated with placebo ($P < .001$). Improvement was observed in both infliximab groups as early as 2 weeks. Overall, 63%, 78%, and 79% of patients in the placebo, 3-, and 5-mg/kg groups, respectively, reported one or more adverse events. **Conclusions:**

Infliximab treatment resulted in a rapid and significant improvement in the signs and symptoms of psoriasis. Infliximab was generally well tolerated. (*J Am Acad Dermatol* 2004;51:534-42.)

Reviewer Comments

- Outcomes over 30 weeks in 445 patients treated with IFX versus placebo: the percent of patients with severe infections was 0% in the placebo group and 0.5% in the combined IFX groups. P-values were not reported.
- The incidence of infusion reactions through week 30 in patients receiving IFX was 18% in patients receiving 3mg/kg and 22% in patients receiving 5mg/kg compared to 2% in the placebo group.

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GRIFFITHS RCT USTEK VS ETN 10 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Griffiths 10

Citation: Griffiths CE, Strober BE, van de Kerkhof P, Ho V, Fidelus-Gort R, Yeilding N, Guzzo C, Xia Y, Zhou B, Li S, Dooley LT, Goldstein NH, Menter A. Comparison of ustekinumab and etanercept for moderate-to-severe psoriasis. N Engl J Med 2010 Jan 14;362(2):118-28.

Study Type: RCT

Agents of Interest: ustekinumab, (UST) etanercept(ETN) in psoriasis.

Safety Outcomes: Serious infections, cancer, reactions at injection site, ≥ 1 Serious adverse event, adverse events leading to withdrawal

Manufacture Involvement: Sponsored by Centocor

ABSTRACT OR STUDY SAFETY DATA

Background

Biologic agents offer a range of new therapeutic options for patients with psoriasis; however, the relative benefit–risk profiles of such therapies are not well known. We compared two biologic agents, ustekinumab (an interleukin-12 and interleukin-23 blocker) and etanercept (an inhibitor of tumor necrosis factor α), for the treatment of psoriasis.

Methods

Investigators randomly assigned 903 patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis to receive subcutaneous injections of either 45 or 90 mg of ustekinumab (at weeks 0 and 4) or high-dose etanercept (50 mg twice weekly for 12 weeks). 67 sites world wide. The primary end point was the proportion of patients with at least 75% improvement in the psoriasis area-and severity index (PASI) at week 12; a secondary end point was the proportion with cleared or minimal disease on the basis of the physician’s global assessment. Assessors were unaware of the treatment assignments. The efficacy and safety of a crossover from etanercept to ustekinumab were evaluated after week 12.

Safety Results

One or more adverse events occurred through week 12 in 66.0% of patients who received 45 mg of ustekinumab and 69.2% of patients who received 90 mg of ustekinumab and in 70.0% who received etanercept; 1.9%, 1.2%, and 1.2%, respectively, had serious adverse events. Safety patterns were similar before and after crossover from etanercept to ustekinumab.

(ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00454584.)

Reviewer Comments

- 12 week study, but safety results also at 64 weeks
- Safety was evaluated by assessing adverse events and routine hematologic and laboratory values. Possible major cardiovascular events (cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, and stroke) were adjudicated by an independent panel of academic cardiologists. In addition, serum samples were evaluated for antibodies to ustekinumab. Adverse events reported at 12 weeks and at 64 weeks.
- Data analysis by Centocor
- Medical writer employed by Centocor
- No details regarding co-interventions or differences in care experiences
- N=903 randomized
 - 209 patients to 45 mg of ustekinumab, 347 patients to 90 mg of ustekinumab, and 347 patients to high-dose etanercept.
- Analyzed
 - 209 patients to 45 mg of ustekinumab, 347 patients to 90 mg of ustekinumab, and 347 patients to high-dose etanercept.
 - 347 crossover to 90 mg before crossover UST; 295 crossover to UST after crossover.
- Randomization: adaptive randomization scheme; no details regarding generation sequence or concealment of allocation.
- Safety data were summarized according to the actual treatment received.
- Inclusion criteria: Patients were eligible for the study if they were adults (≥ 18 years of age) who had received a diagnosis of plaque psoriasis at least 6 months earlier, were candidates for phototherapy or systemic treatment, had a score on the psoriasis area-and-severity index (PASI) of 12 or higher (on a scale of 0 to 72, with higher scores indicating more severe disease), had a score of at least 3 on the physician’s global assessment (on a scale of 0 to 5, with 0 indicating no disease and 5 severe disease), and had involvement of at least 10% of body-surface area at baseline. Additional eligibility criteria were an inadequate response, intolerance, or contraindication to at least one conventional systemic agent for the treatment of psoriasis (i.e., methotrexate, cyclosporine, or psoralen plus ultraviolet A) and no previous treatment with ustekinumab or etanercept.
- Exclusion criteria: nonplaque (i.e., pustular, guttate, or erythrodermic) or drug-induced forms of psoriasis, a recent serious infection or a history of chronic or recurrent infectious disease, or a known malignant condition (with the exception of treated basal-cell or squamous-cell skin cancer or cervical cancer in situ with no evidence of recurrence for ≥ 5 years). Patients could not have received conventional systemic therapy or phototherapy within 4 weeks before enrollment, topical psoriasis agents within 2 weeks, investigational drugs within 4 weeks or five half-lives, whichever was longer, or biologic agents within 3 months or five half-lives, whichever was longer.
- Blinding: Patients were aware of their treatment assignment, although patients who were randomly assigned to ustekinumab

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received double injections (one injection of active treatment and one injection of placebo) to maintain blinding for the dose. All study personnel, except those who dispensed or administered a study agent, remained unaware of the treatment assignments throughout the study. Assessors were unaware of the treatment assignments.

Safety Results

During the first 12 weeks of the trial, the proportions of patients who had at least one adverse event were similar in the etanercept group (70.0%) and both ustekinumab groups (66.0% in the group that received 45 mg of ustekinumab and 69.2% in the group that received 90 mg) and similar proportions of patients discontinued treatment because of adverse events (2.3% of patients in the etanercept group, as compared with 1.9% of those who received 45 mg of ustekinumab and 1.2% of those who received 90 mg of ustekinumab). The greatest disparity in adverse events was observed in the proportions of patients who reported injection-site reactions (24.8% of patients who received etanercept as compared with 4.3% of patients who received 45 mg of ustekinumab and 3.7% of patients who received 90 mg of ustekinumab); the majority of these reactions were mild, and no anaphylaxis or serum sickness-like reactions were reported.

Through week 12, serious adverse events occurred in four patients in each treatment group. In the etanercept group, one patient each had upper abdominal pain, bacterial meningitis, nephrolithiasis, and the rotator-cuff syndrome. In the group of patients who received 45 mg of ustekinumab, one patient each had pancreatitis, psychotic disorder, and hypertension with chest pain, and one patient with a family history of breast cancer received a diagnosis of breast cancer at week 7 of the study. In the group of patients who received 90 mg of ustekinumab, one patient each had appendicitis, gastrointestinal infection due to food poisoning, and uvulitis, and one patient was hospitalized twice: initially for urosepsis complicated by acute renal failure, gastritis, peptic-ulcer hemorrhage, nosocomial pneumonia, and chest pain (reported as a myocardial infarction by the investigator but determined not to be a myocardial infarction by adjudication) and subsequently for angina. Infections occurred at similar rates in the three treatment groups (29.1%, 30.6%, and 29.7% in the groups that received etanercept, 45 mg of ustekinumab, and 90 mg of ustekinumab, respectively). Nonmelanoma skin cancers occurred in two patients in the group that received 45 mg of ustekinumab and in one patient in the group that received 90 mg of ustekinumab; all cases occurred in areas of cleared psoriatic plaques. See table below.

Note: actual numbers of serious adverse events was low.

Adverse Events
(All randomized subjects included to before crossover)
Number of patients (%)

Category	Week 0-12			Week 0-64	
	ETN (n=347)	UST 45 mg (n=209)	UST 90 mg (n=347)	Crossover to 90 mg UST (before) (n=347)	Crossover to 90 mg UST (after) (n=295)
Injection Site Reaction	86 (24.8)	9 (4.3)	13 (3.7)	86 (24.8)	5 (1.7)
Adverse event leading to withdrawal of study	8 (2.3)	4 (1.9)	4 (1.2)	11 (3.2)	2 (0.7)
≥1 Serious adverse event	4 (1.2)	4 (1.9)	4 (1.2)	12 (3.5)	10 (3.4)
Infection requiring treatment	34 (9.8)	18 (8.6)	33 (9.5)	56 (16.1)	33 (11.2)
Malignant condition other than nonmelanoma skin cancer†	0	1 (0.5)	0	0	1 (0.3)

†Malignant conditions other than nonmelanoma skin cancer included breast cancer in one patient and an oral neoplasm in one patient in the group of patients who received 45 mg of ustekinumab, chronic lymphocytic leukemia in one patient and mycosis fungoides in one patient in the group of patients who received 90 mg of ustekinumab, and prostate cancer in one patient who received etanercept followed by crossover to 90 mg of ustekinumab.

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

HETLAND 09_Registry_Danish_General_3Agents_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Hetland 09

Citation: Hetland ML, Christensen IJ, Tarp U, Dreyer L, Hansen A, Hansen IT, Kollerup G, Linde L, Lindegaard HM, Poulsen UE, Schlemmer A, Jensen DV, Jensen S, Hostenkamp G, Østergaard M; All Departments of Rheumatology in Denmark. Direct comparison of treatment responses, remission rates, and drug adherence in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with adalimumab, etanercept, or infliximab: results from eight years of surveillance of clinical practice in the nationwide Danish DANBIO registry. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2010 Jan;62(1):22-32. PubMed PMID: 20039405.

Study Type: Registry Cohort (Denmark)

Manufacture Involvement: The registry receives financial support from a variety of manufacturers; however, there is no other manufacturer involvement. Authors have received consultancy fees from various manufacturers.

Abstract
OBJECTIVE To compare tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitors directly regarding the rates of treatment response, remission, and the drug survival rate in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and to identify clinical prognostic factors for response.
METHODS The nationwide DANBIO registry collects data on rheumatology patients receiving routine care. For the present study, we included patients from DANBIO who had RA (n = 2,326) in whom the first biologic treatment was initiated (29% received adalimumab, 22% received etanercept, and 49% received infliximab). Baseline predictors of treatment response were identified. The odds ratios (ORs) for clinical responses and remission and hazard ratios (HRs) for drug withdrawal were calculated, corrected for age, disease duration, the Disease Activity Score in 28 joints (DAS28), seropositivity, concomitant methotrexate and prednisolone, number of previous disease-modifying drugs, center, and functional status (Health Assessment Questionnaire score).
SAFETY RESULTS At 48 months, the HRs for drug withdrawal were 1.98 for infliximab versus etanercept (95% 1.63-2.40), 1.35 for infliximab versus adalimumab (95% CI 1.15-1.58), and 1.47 for adalimumab versus etanercept (95% CI 1.20-1.80).
CONCLUSION Older age, low functional status, and concomitant prednisolone treatment were negative predictors of a clinical response and remission. Infliximab had the lowest rates of treatment response, disease remission, and drug adherence, adalimumab had the highest rates of treatment response and disease remission, and etanercept had the longest drug survival rates. These findings were consistent after correction for confounders and sensitivity analyses and across outcome measures and followup times.
Reviewer Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All registry studies are observational studies without control groups and are subject to confounding.• Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab in RA• DANBIO registry described as Danish web-based registry since October 2000. It is sponsored by hospital owners and pharmaceutical companies manufacturing products for RA (without their influence). Patients were followed until April 3, 2009 or until they withdrew from treatment, whichever came first.• Population diagnosed for RA by their treating rheumatologist. All patients had been treated with ≥ 1 conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), but treatment failed to such an extent that therapy with either adalimumab, etanercept, or infliximab was initiated as the first biologic agent. The treatment regimens reflected routine care: concomitant MTX (or other DMARD) and prednisolone were administered according to the decision of the treating rheumatologist. The TNF alpha inhibitors were prescribed in standard doses unless the rheumatologist decided otherwise. The rheumatologist recorded information on the type of drug, start and stop dates (date of first missed dose), reasons for withdrawal, and patient assessment. The patient completed the Danish version of the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) together with the patient's global and pain assessment, either by touch screen or using paper forms. Patients were registered at least twice yearly.• No comparison group.• Various comparisons were undertaken as sensitivity analyses. Authors report that "...results were very robust in a variety of sensitivity analyses."• Authors state, "However, the possibility cannot be excluded that differences in the timing of clinical assessments may potentially have biased the treatment outcomes, because infliximab-treated patients were often scored on the day of infusion (at trough drug levels), whereas the subcutaneously treated patients were scored independently of the day of injection. It cannot be ruled out that the infliximab dosage was insufficient in some patients, and that higher dosages would have improved the outcome. However, the patients were treated according to standard recommendations, and the dose of infliximab had been increased by 69% compared with the standard dose in the majority of patients who withdrew due to lack of efficacy. Furthermore, the adjusted HR for drug withdrawal was highest for infliximab compared with adalimumab and etanercept, and this ratio was independent of differences in the timing of the clinical assessment."• No mention of how switching was handled between agents.

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Registry Study (Hetland 09) Risk of Withdrawal		
Reference	Agents	Outcomes
Hetland 07	IFX Compared to ETN	RR of Withdrawal 1.98 (95% CI 1.63 to 2.40)
	IFX Compared to ADA	1.35 (95% CI 1.15 to 1.58)
	ADA Compared to ETN	1.47 (95% CI 1.20 to 1.80)

Key findings

The risk for withdrawal, compared to ETN, was 1.98 for IFX (95% CI 1.63 to 2.40), 1.35 for IFX versus ADA (95% CI 1.15 to 1.58), and 1.47 for ADA versus ETN (95% CI 1.20 to 1.80).

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

JACOBSSON SWEDISH REGISTRY MORTALITY RA 05 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Jacobsson 05

Citation: Jacobsson LT, Turesson C, Gülfe A, Kapetanovic MC, Petersson IF, Saxne T, Geborek P. Treatment with tumor necrosis factor blockers is associated with a lower incidence of first cardiovascular events in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *J Rheumatol*. 2005 Jul;32(7):1213-8. PubMed PMID: 15996054.

Study Type: Registry

Agents of Interest: TNFIs (etanercept, infliximab)) and Mortality in RA

Safety Outcomes: Mortality

Manufacture Involvement: No.

ABSTRACT

Objective. To investigate the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors, compared to a standard RA population.

Methods. Patients were recruited from a regional register, which includes over 90% of patients with RA started on TNF blockers in 1999 or later, and a local community based cohort of RA patients, established in 1997. Of a total of 983 patients in the combined cohort, 531 received treatment with etanercept or infliximab during the study period. The total cohort (n = 983) was linked with national registers for inpatient care and cause of death through December 31, 2001. CVD was defined as the first inpatient care or death from CVD without inpatient care for CVD prior to study entry. First CVD events in those treated versus not treated with TNF blockers were estimated, using age and sex adjusted incidence density computations with treatment and disease severity markers as time dependent covariates.

Results. In the anti-TNF-treated patients, the age-sex adjusted incidence rate of first CVD event was 14.0/1000 person-years at risk (95% CI 5.7–22.4), compared with 35.4/1000 person-years (95% CI 16.5–54.4) in those not treated. Controlling for disability, the age-sex adjusted rate ratio was 0.46 (95% CI 0.25–0.85, p = 0.013) in anti-TNF-treated versus not treated.

Conclusion. These findings suggest that the risk of developing CVD is lower in patients with RA treated with TNF blockers. This is compatible with the hypothesis that inflammation contributes to the development of cardiovascular events. (*J Rheumatol* 2005;32:1213–8)

Reviewer Comments

- Reported decreased mortality rates in patients receiving anti-TNF therapy compared to patients receiving traditional DMARDs.
- Conflicting evidence in Lunt 10

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

KEYSTONE GOL RA TRIAL 10 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Keystone 10

Citation: Keystone E, Genovese MC, Klareskog L, Hsia EC, Hall S, Miranda PC, Pazdur J, Bae SC, Palmer W, Xu S, Rahman MU. Golimumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite methotrexate therapy: 52-week results of the GO-FORWARD study. Ann Rheum Dis 2010 Jun;69(6):1129-35.

Study Type: RCT

Agents of Interest: Golimumab in rheumatoid arthritis.

Safety Outcomes: reported adverse events

Funding: Centocor

ABSTRACT OR STUDY SAFETY DATA

Objective

To evaluate the efficacy and safety of golimumab to 52 weeks in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite methotrexate.

Methods

Patients were randomly assigned to receive placebo plus methotrexate (group 1), golimumab 100 mg plus placebo (group 2), golimumab 50 mg plus methotrexate (group 3) and golimumab 100 mg plus methotrexate (group 4). At week 16, patients in groups 1, 2 and 3 who had less than 20% improvement in tender and swollen joints entered early escape. At week 24, patients in group 1 who had not entered early escape crossed over to 50 mg golimumab plus methotrexate.

Results

At week 16, 31%, 27% and 17% of patients in groups 1, 2 and 3, respectively, entered early escape. Patients in group 4 appeared to have an increased risk of serious adverse events and serious infections. The exposure-adjusted rate of adverse events in each of the golimumab groups appeared to be similar to the placebo group. However, patients who received the 100 mg dose of golimumab with or without methotrexate appeared to have greater rates of serious adverse events and serious infections compared with patients who received 50 mg with methotrexate.

Conclusion

The results of various outcome measures showed that the response rates achieved by patients receiving golimumab to 24 weeks were sustained to 52 weeks. The safety profile appeared to be consistent with the known safety profile of tumour necrosis factor inhibitors.

Reviewer Comments

- Complex trial with relatively small numbers (see below) underpowered to reliably demonstrate statistically significant differences in safety outcomes between multiple groups.
- Funded by Centocor
- No details regarding randomization
- No details regarding co-interventions or differences in care experiences
- N=444 randomized
 - 209 patients to 45 mg of ustekinumab, 347 patients to 90 mg of ustekinumab, and 347 patients to high-dose etanercept.
- Analyzed
 - See table below: total is unclear.
- Safety data were summarized according to the actual treatment received.
- Blinding: No details except authors state injections provided in blinded fashion.
- Increased rate of adverse events (serious infection, injection site reaction, malignancy) with GLN compared to MTX; no P-values

Safety Results: Small groups; see table below.

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Category	Group 1: placebo+MTX → GLM 50 mg+MTX*		Group 2: GLM 100mg+Placebo		Group 3: GLM 50 mg + MTX		
	Early escape (weeks 16–52)	Crossover (weeks 24–52)	100 mg + placebo only	Early escape (weeks 16–52) 100 mg → 100 mg+MTX	50 mg+MTX only	Early escape (weeks 16–52) 50 mg+ MTX → 100 mg+MTX	Group 4: golimumab 100 mg+MTX
Patients treated with golimumab	41	82	133	36	89	15	89
Patients with one or more serious infections (%)	2 (4.9)	0 (0)	5 (3.8)	3 (8.3)	2 (2.2)	0 (0)	7 (7.9)
Patients with one or more injection-site disorders (%)	1 (2.4)	2 (2.4)	15 (11.3)	2 (5.6)	7 (7.9)	3 (20.0)	8 (9.0)
Patients with one or more malignancies (%)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.1)	0 (0)	3 (3.4)

* Only included patients who took at least one dose of GLM.

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KREMER 10_KAVANAUGH 09 GLM INFECTION

AUTHOR YR: Kremer 10 and Kavanaugh added to Singh 10 review—see below

Citation: Singh JA, Noorbaloochi S, Singh G. Golimumab for rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review. *J Rheumatol*. 2010 Jun;37(6):1096-104. Epub 2010 May 1. Review. PubMed PMID: 20436075.

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Agents of Interest: Golimumab (GLM) Simponi in RA

Safety Outcomes: serious adverse events, infections, serious infections, lung infections, tuberculosis, cancer, withdrawals due to adverse events and deaths.

Manufacture Involvement: No.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACT WITH RELEVANT SAFETY DATA COCHRANE

Background

Golimumab is a humanized inhibitor of tumor necrosis factor-alpha, recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of Rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives

The objective of this systematic review was to compare the efficacy and safety of golimumab (alone or in combination with DMARDs or biologics) to placebo (alone or in combination with DMARDs or biologics) in randomized or quasi-randomized clinical trials in adults with RA.

Search strategy

An expert librarian searched six databases for any clinical trials of golimumab in RA, including the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), OVID MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, Science Citation Index (Web of Science) and Current Controlled Trials databases.

Selection criteria

Studies were included if they used golimumab in adults with RA, were randomized or quasi-randomized and provided clinical outcomes. Data collection and analysis Two review authors (JS, SN) independently reviewed all titles and abstracts, selected appropriate studies for full review and reviewed the full-text articles for the final selection of included studies. For each study, they independently abstracted study characteristics, safety and efficacy data and performed risk of bias assessment. Disagreements were resolved by consensus. For continuous measures, we calculated mean differences or standardized mean differences and for categorical measures, relative risks. 95% confidence intervals were calculated.

Main results

Four RCTs with 1,231 patients treated with golimumab and 483 patients treated with placebo were included. Of these, 436 were treated with the FDA-approved dose of golimumab 50 mg every four weeks. No significant differences were noted between golimumab and placebo regarding serious adverse events, infections, serious infections, lung infections, tuberculosis, cancer, withdrawals due to adverse events and deaths.

Reviewer Comments

Authors state that randomized controlled trials included in the review are limited in their ability to assess safety. They searched U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) web site for labels and warnings and other similar regulatory agency's web sites to summarize warnings related to golimumab.

- 148 relevant studies, 4 included in review
- Cochrane N=1231
- Search quality: high
- Search dates: 1966 to June Week 3, 2009
- Additional safety searches: FDA web site for warnings and adverse events related to golimumab use on 09/01/2009.
- Inclusion criteria: Studies were included if they used golimumab in adults with RA, were randomized or quasi-randomized and provided clinical outcomes.
- Intervention: golimumab 50 mg and 100 mg every four weeks plus methotrexate versus placebo plus methotrexate.
- Quality assessment
 - The following were assessed: blinding of participant, care provider and outcome assessor in the studies, allocation concealment, random sequence generation, incomplete outcome data, and selective outcome reporting. Each trial was assessed as being at high, low or unclear risk of bias. All studies reported adequate methods of randomization, allocation concealment and blinding.
 - The overall possibility of bias rated as low.
- Heterogeneity: moderately high and statistically significant heterogeneity in the golimumab 50 mg and 100 mg every four weeks plus methotrexate versus placebo plus methotrexate groups with I2 values of 76% and 77% (P-values of 0.005 for each).
- Studies were relatively small and of relatively short duration.
- Golimumab (50mg every 4-weeks) was not associated with statistically significant higher risk of infections, serious infections, tuberculosis, lung infections, cancer or death in Cochrane review.
- Withdrawals due to adverse events not statistically significantly different in groups.

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- None of the RCTs had safety as the primary outcome.
- High likelihood of being underpowered to detect differences between groups if they exist.

Additional Information From Delfini Updated Search and Review of Additional Studies

- Keystone 10: Patients who received the 100 mg dose of golimumab with or without methotrexate appeared to have greater rates of serious adverse events and serious infections compared with patients who received 50 mg with methotrexate.
- Kremer 10 reported increased serious adverse events and serious infections with GLM compared to placebo.

Conclusions

- Based on safety data from 2723 patients, there are weak signals of increased serious adverse events and serious infections with GLM compared to placebo and a suggestion of higher rates with 100mg doses. Long-term surveillance studies and RCTs with safety as primary outcome are needed to provide reliable safety data.
- LOE: Inconclusive differences between golimumab and placebo regarding serious adverse events, infections, serious infections, lung infections, tuberculosis, cancer, withdrawals due to adverse events and deaths.

Primary Studies Included in Cochrane Review

Emery P, Fleischmann RM, Moreland LW, Hsia EC, Strusberg I, Durez P, et al. Golimumab, a human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody, injected subcutaneously every four weeks in methotrexate-naive patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: Twenty-four-week results of a phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of golimumab before methotrexate as first-line therapy for early-onset rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009;**60**(8):2272–83.

Kay J, Matteson EL, Dasgupta B, Nash P, Durez P, Hall S, et al. Golimumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite treatment with methotrexate: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;**58**:964–75.

Keystone EC, Genovese MC, Klareskog L, Hsia EC, Hall ST, Miranda PC, et al. Golimumab, a human antibody to tumour necrosis factor {alpha} given by monthly subcutaneous injections, in active rheumatoid arthritis despite methotrexate therapy: the GO-FORWARD Study. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2009;**68**:789–96.

Smolen JS, Kay J, Doyle MK, Landewe R, Matteson EL, Wollenhaupt J, et al. Golimumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis after treatment with tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors (GO-AFTER study): a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III trial. *Lancet* 2009;**374**(9685):210–21.

UPDATED SEARCH 11/15/10

Keystone E, Genovese MC, Klareskog L, Hsia EC, Hall S, Miranda PC, Pazdur J, Bae SC, Palmer W, Xu S, Rahman MU. Golimumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite methotrexate therapy: 52-week results of the GO-FORWARD study. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2010 Jun;**69**(6):1129-35.

Kremer J, Ritchlin C, Mendelsohn A, Baker D, Kim L, Xu Z, Han J, Taylor P. Golimumab, a new human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha antibody, administered intravenously in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: Forty-eight-week efficacy and safety results of a phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2010 Apr;**62**(4):917-28.

Kavanaugh A, McInnes I, Mease P, Krueger GG, Gladman D, Gomez-Reino J, Papp K, Zrubek J, Mudivarthi S, Mack M, Visvanathan S, Beutler A. Golimumab, a new human tumor necrosis factor alpha antibody, administered every four weeks as a subcutaneous injection in psoriatic arthritis: Twenty-four-week efficacy and safety results of a randomized, placebo-controlled study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009 Apr;**60**(4):976-86. PMID: 19333944

From Cochrane

Golimumab with MTX to Placebo for Withdrawals Due to Adverse Events

- All four studies provided data from 1231 patients (Emery 2009, Kay 2008, Keystone 2009, Smolen 2009).
- The odds ratio for withdrawals due to adverse events in golimumab-treated RA patients was 0.80 (95% CI 0.26 to 2.42), compared to placebo.
- Authors comment: The safety profile of golimumab was similar to that of methotrexate with regards to number of adverse events, serious adverse events, infections, serious infections and cancer. Withdrawals rates overall and due to adverse events were similar.

Golimumab 100 mg every four weeks + methotrexate versus placebo + methotrexate

- Number and type of adverse effects (AEs) and serious adverse events (SAEs):
- There was no significant difference between the number of adverse events and serious adverse events occurring for golimumab treated patients compared to placebo treated patients with (P= 0.14) and (P=0.9) respectively.

Golimumab 50 mg every two weeks + methotrexate versus placebo + methotrexate

- Number and type of adverse effects (AEs) and serious adverse events (SAEs): There was no significant difference between the number of adverse events and serious adverse events occurring for golimumab treated patients compared to placebo treated patients with (P=0.3) and (P=0.6) respectively.

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Delfini Update 11/15/10

Keystone 2010

52 week study: 444 patients. Patients were randomly assigned to receive placebo plus methotrexate (group 1), golimumab 100 mg plus placebo (group 2), golimumab 50 mg plus methotrexate (group 3) and golimumab 100 mg plus methotrexate (group 4). At week 16, patients in groups 1, 2 and 3 who had less than 20% improvement in tender and swollen joints entered early escape. At week 24, patients in group 1 who had not entered early escape crossed over to 50 mg golimumab plus methotrexate. See Keystone 10 above for results.

Kremer 2010

- Phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 48-week study of 643 patients to assess the efficacy and safety of intravenous administration of golimumab (with and without MTX) in patients in whom RA remained active despite treatment with MTX.
- Eligible patients were randomly assigned (1:1:1:1), using an interactive voice-response system, to receive blinded intravenous infusions of placebo plus MTX, 2 mg/kg golimumab with or without MTX, or 4 mg/kg golimumab with or without MTX.
- Golimumab and placebo were supplied as sterile liquid (aqueous medium of histidine, sorbitol, polysorbate 80, pH 5.5, with or without golimumab) ready for intravenous infusion. Active and placebo MTX were supplied as matching opaque capsules (microcrystalline cellulose filled with or without MTX; those with MTX were overencapsulated and provided the stable prescreening dose).
- Safety evaluations through week 48 included assessment for adverse events, including infusion site reactions, routine laboratory analyses, and determination of antibodies to golimumab.
- Higher proportions of golimumab-treated patients than placebo plus MTX-treated patients had serious adverse events (63 [10%] of 626 patients and 7 [5%] of 129 patients, respectively)
- Serious infections (23 [4%] of 626 GLM-treated patients and 2 [2%] of 129 placebo patients,) through week 48.
- Two cases of TB occurred between week 24 and week 48 in patients who initially tested negative for TB at the time of screening (1 patient each from Argentina and Mexico, and 1 each receiving 4 mg/kg golimumab plus placebo and 4 mg/kg golimumab plus MTX).

Kavanaugh 2009

- 24 week placebo-controlled, double blind trial: 405 patients were randomized in a blinded manner (1:1.3:1.3) by a centralized interactive voice response system (113, 146, 146 patients to placebo, golimumab 50mg + stable dose of MTX, corticosteroids and NSAIDs and golimumab 100mg + stable doses as above.
- Safety evaluations included adverse events, routine laboratory analyses, and the presence of antibodies to golimumab. The incidence of malignancies was determined based on 100 patient-years of followup, with corresponding 95% confidence intervals.
- Similar baseline characteristics.
- All patients included in safety analysis.
- Serious infections in placebo, combined GOL groups: 4% and <1%; serious adverse events: 6% and <1%; injection site reactions: 3% and 3%. Thus there was no signal of increased serious infection rate with GLM compared to placebo.
- Three malignancies were reported, all in the golimumab 100 mg group (2 cases of basal cell carcinoma and 1 case of prostate cancer), representing an incidence of 2.32 (95% CI 0.48 to 6.78) per 100 patient-years versus 0.00 (95% CI 0.00 to 7.13) per 100 patient-years for placebo, with the 95% CI for golimumab fully contained within that for placebo.
- Eight golimumab-treated patients (3%) and 5 placebo treated patients (4%) discontinued the study agent due to adverse events occurring prior to week 24.

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KRUEGER_LEONARDI_PAPP UST

AUTHOR YR: Leonardi 08, Papp 08, Krueger 07

Citations

Leonardi CL, Kimball AB, Papp KA, et al. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab, a human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody, in patients with psoriasis: 76-week results from a randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled trial (PHOENIX 1). *Lancet*. 2008;371: 1665–1674. 43. PMID: 18486739

Papp KA, Langley RG, Lebwohl M, et al. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab, a human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody, in patients with psoriasis: 52-week results from a randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled trial (PHOENIX 2). *Lancet*. 2008;371: 1675–1684. PMID: 18486740

Krueger GG, Langley RG, Leonardi C, et al. A human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody for the treatment of psoriasis. *N Engl J Med* 2007; 356:580-92. DOI 10.1056/NEJMoa062382. PMID: 17287478

Study Type: RCTs

Agents of Interest: UST

Manufacture Involvement:

Leonardi 08: Centocor employees involved in design and conduct of study.

Papp 08: Centocor employees involved in design and conduct of study.

Krueger 07: Authors recipients of grants from Centocor

Reviewer Comments

- Trials obtained from bibliographies and PubMed search to 11/15/10.
- All trials likely to be underpowered to find statistically significant safety differences in groups if they existed and therefore safety results are inconclusive.
- Similar serious infection, cancer, cardiovascular, adverse event rates leading to withdrawal.
- Centocor funded and was involved in analysis and writing of manuscripts (all trials).
- Reviews (Krulig 10, Scanlon 09), reported similar frequencies of adverse events in ustekinumab and placebo groups; common adverse events reported included nasopharyngitis, upper respiratory tract infection, headache, arthralgia, cough, and injection site reactions.
- The only head to head trial comparing ETN to UST (Griffiths 10) reported higher rate of injection site reactions: 24.8% ETN versus 4.3% of UST 45 mg group and 3.7% of UST 90 mg.
- Inconsistent signals of increased serious infection and withdrawal due to adverse events in the trials.

Results

Reference	Population/N	Intervention	Safety Findings	Reviewer Comments
Leonardi 08 PHOENIX 1	Moderate to severe psoriasis N=766	76 week safety study Placebo UST 45 mg UST 90 mg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection rates ~20% all groups. • Serious infections in placebo group, 45mg UST group, 90mg UST group were 0.5%, 0% and 0.2% respectively. • Cutaneous, non-cutaneous cancer, cardiovascular event rates were similar. • Injection site reactions were 1% or less in all groups. • Similar withdrawal rates in the groups due to adverse events • No cases lymphoma or demyelinating disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation Sequence: No details, except used minimization • Concealment Alloc: interactive voice technology • Baseline characteristics similar • Blinding: Yes for Subjects/Investigators; study sponsor was unblinded at week 52 for analysis purposes • All patients included in safety analysis at week 12 • 623 /766 included in safety analysis weeks 12-40 • Centocor funded and was involved in analysis and writing of manuscript
Papp 08 PHOENIX 2	N=1230 Psoriasis	40 week safety study Placebo UST 45 mg UST 90 mg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious infections <2% all groups. • Similar malignancy rates in all groups (8 cutaneous and 2 non-cutaneous) • Injection site reactions were 1% or less in all groups. • No cases TB, lymphoma, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation Sequence: No details, except used minimization • Concealment Alloc: interactive voice technology • Baseline characteristics similar. • Blinding: Yes for Subjects/Invest/Assessors; study

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Reference	Population/N	Intervention	Safety Findings	Reviewer Comments
			demyelinating disease.	sponsor was unblinded at week 52 for analysis purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All patients included in safety analysis at week 12 • 623 /766 included in safety analysis weeks 12-40 • Centocor funded and was involved in analysis and writing of manuscript
Krueger 07	Moderate to severe psoriasis N=320	Mean duration of safety f/u: 18-19 weeks Placebo UST 45 mg UST 90 mg	Significant differences were not observed in the rates of patients who had at least one adverse event (P= 0.19), adverse events leading to withdrawal of the study agent (P = 1.00), serious adverse events (P = 0.69), infections (P= .51), or malignant conditions (P=1.00), although the study was not designed or powered to detect small differences in rates of adverse events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse events leading to discontinuation were 4% of active treatment group, 3% in placebo group (P = 1.00). • Infections occurred in combined UST groups in 43% of patients versus 39% of patients in the placebo group. Serious adverse events, all of which were classified as serious because the patients required hospitalization, were observed in 4% of patients treated with the UST (9 of 252) and 1% of patients in the placebo group (1 of 67, P = 0.69). In the groups that received UST, two patients were hospitalized for infection (one for cellulitis and one for pneumonia). • No obvious association between a higher dose and an increased rate of adverse events or infections. • Serious adverse events (defined as requiring hospitalization) were 4% in treatment group and 1% in placebo group (P = 0.69). • Injection site reactions 2% UST and placebo groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation sequence: adaptive process • Concealment: no details • Baseline Characteristics: statistically significant differences in groups for sex; otherwise similar • Blinding: no details • 319/320 included in safety analysis • Centocor analyzed the data, and the steering committee and Centocor jointly interpreted the data and contributed to the manuscript

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LISTING RABBIT SERIOUS ADV INF IFX ETN REGISTRY 05 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Listing 05

Citation: Listing J, Strangfeld A, Kary S, Rau R, von Hinueber U, Stoyanova-Scholz M, Gromnica-Ihle E, Antoni C, Herzer P, Kekow J, Schneider M, Zink A. Infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with biologic agents. *Arthritis Rheum* 2005 Nov;52(11):3403-12. PMID: 16255017

Study Type: Registry Cohort RABBIT, (Rheumatoid Arthritis–Observation of BiologicTherapy), German Biologics Registry

Manufacture Involvement: The study protocol stipulates that treatment decisions are not to be influenced by the principal investigators, the scientific advisory board, or the pharmaceutical companies sponsoring the register. The contract specifies that full responsibility for the conduct of the study, data ownership, and publication rights are in the hands of the principal investigators.

Abstract

Objective. To estimate the incidence rates of serious and nonserious infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who start treatment with a biologic agent, and to compare these rates with those in patients with RA who receive conventional treatment.

Methods. Patients enrolled in the German biologics register between May 2001 and September 2003 were included. Treating rheumatologists assessed adverse events and serious adverse events. All adverse events and serious adverse events experienced within 12 months after study entry were analyzed. Propensity score methods were applied to estimate which part of a rate increase was likely to be attributable to differences in patient characteristics.

Results. Data were available for 512 patients receiving etanercept, 346 patients receiving infliximab, 70 patients receiving anakinra, and 601 control patients treated with disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. The total number of adverse events per 100 patient years was 22.6 (95% CI 18.7 to 27.2) among patients receiving etanercept, 28.3 (95% CI 23.1 to 34.7) among patients receiving infliximab, and 6.8 (95% CI 5.0 to 9.4) among controls ($P < 0.0001$). Significant differences in the rate of serious adverse events were also observed. For patients receiving etanercept, those receiving infliximab, and controls, the total numbers of serious adverse events per 100 patient-years were 6.4 (95% CI 4.5 to 9.1), 6.2 (95% CI 4.0 to 9.5), and 2.3 (95% CI 1.3 to 3.9), respectively ($P = 0.0016$).

After adjusting for differences in the case patient mix, the relative risks of serious adverse events were 2.2 (95% CI 0.9–5.4) for patients receiving etanercept and 2.1 (95% CI 0.8 to 5.5) for patients receiving infliximab, compared with controls.

Conclusion. Patients treated with biologic agents have a higher a priori risk of infection. However, our data suggest that this risk is increased by treatment with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors.

Reviewer Comments

- In 2001, the German Society of Rheumatology invited all rheumatologists to contribute to a national register in order to investigate the long-term safety, effectiveness, and costs of biologic therapies in RA. The Epidemiology Unit at the German Rheumatism Research Center was charged with maintaining the register, and an advisory board was established by the German Society of Rheumatology.
- The authors presented the first results from the prospective cohort study known as RABBIT, which is the German acronym for rheumatoid arthritis–observation of biologic therapy. Authors investigated the incidence of serious and nonserious infections within the first year of treatment with biologic agents.
- Physicians assessed adverse events and serious adverse events according to accepted guidelines. For reasons of quality assurance, the rheumatologists were provided with the definitions of adverse events and serious adverse events according to International Conference on Harmonisation guideline E2A.
- Between May 1, 2001 and September 1, 2003, a total of 1,529 patients from 109 centers were entered into the RABBIT database. In this population, 601 patients had a change in their conventional DMARD therapy (control group), and 512 patients started treatment with etanercept, 346 started with infliximab, and 70 started with anakinra. Seventy-four percent of these patients completed the 12 months of followup in September 2004. The dropout rate was low: 6.9% for the first 6 months and 11.1% in total. In 15% of the patients, the followup was not yet completed.
- RR of serious infections compared to non-biologic DMARDs was similar for ETN and IFX

Serious Adverse Events Compared to Non-biologic DMARDs	ETN Relative Risk	IFX Relative Risk
Lower respiratory tract infection, total	2.66 (95% CI 0.7 to 11.8)	4.82 (95% CI 1.4 to 20.8)
Bone and joint infections	5.91 (95% CI 0.7 to 50.7)	1.75 (95% CI 0.1 to 28.0)
Bacterial skin and subcutaneous tissue infections	4.14 (95% CI 0.9 to 19.9)	3.51 (95% CI 0.6 to 19.2)
Skin and subcutaneous tissue infection, total	2.95 (95% CI 0.9 to 9.4)	2.63 (95% CI 0.7 to 9.3)
Bacterial skin and subcutaneous tissue infections	4.14 (95% CI 0.9 to 19.9)	3.51 (95% CI 0.6 to 19.2)
Total	2.82 (95% CI 1.4 to 5.9)	2.70 (95% CI 1.3 to 5.9)

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LUNT REGISTRY MORTALITY RA 10 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Lunt 10

Citation: Lunt M, Watson KD, Dixon WG, Symmons DP, Hyrich KL. No evidence of association between anti-TNF treatment and mortality in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: Results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Arthritis Rheum 2010 Jul 26. PMID: 20662063

Study Type: Registry

Agents of Interest: TNFIs (etanercept, infliximab and adalimumab) and Mortality in RA

Safety Outcomes: Mortality

Manufacture Involvement: No.

ABSTRACT WITH RELEVANT SAFETY DATA

Objective: To study the association between anti-TNF therapy and mortality in a national cohort of RA patients.

Methods: We prospectively followed 12672 patients starting anti-TNF therapy and 3522 biologic-naive patients receiving DMARDs until 31/07/08 or death, whichever was sooner. Notification and cause of death were received from the UK national death register. Mortality was compared using Cox Proportional Hazards. Inverse Probability of Treatment Weighting (IPTW) was used to adjust for confounding effect of baseline differences between groups, including age, gender, disease severity, disability and comorbidity. Missing baseline data were accounted for using multiple imputation.

Results: Compared to the DMARD cohort, the anti-TNF patients were younger (median 57 vs 61 yrs), had higher disease activity (median DAS28 6.6 vs 5.1) and higher disability (median HAQ 2.1 v 1.6). Patients in the DMARD cohort were more likely to have a history of myocardial infarction (4.8 v 3.0%) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (8.1 v 4.8%) but less likely to have had depression (16.5 vs 18.9%). There were 9445 and 50803 person-years of follow-up in the DMARD and anti-TNF cohorts respectively, during which time 204 DMARD and 856 anti-TNF patients died. The weighted mortality hazard ratios in the anti-TNF cohort were: All cause 0.86 (95% CI 0.64, 1.16), Circulatory Disease (HR 0.73 (95% CI 0.44, 1.23), Neoplasm (HR 0.65 (95% CI 0.39, 1.09)) and Respiratory Disease (weighted HR 0.81 (95% CI 0.36, 1.83)).

- To 31 July 2008, 12,672 patients with RA were recruited to the anti-TNF cohort (4,420 Etanercept, 4,161 Infliximab, 4,091 Adalimumab). The median age was 57 years and 76% were female.
- Over 50% of patients also had another comorbid condition at baseline, with the most common being hypertension, depression, asthma/COPD and peptic ulcer disease.
- On average, the 3522 patients recruited to the non-biologic DMARD cohort were slightly older and had a higher proportion of males compared to the anti-TNF cohort.
- The underlying causes of death, classified by ICD 10 chapter, were available for 98.4% of the cohort. The leading causes of death were circulatory disease, neoplasm, respiratory disease and musculoskeletal disease, primarily severe RA. Proportionately more people in the DMARD comparison group died of a neoplasm than in the anti-TNF group (32% versus 20%). There was a higher proportion of deaths in the anti-TNF group from diseases of the musculoskeletal system (15% versus 5%), primarily RA. Of note, RA was listed anywhere on the death certificate in only 31% of patients. Other causes of death were equally distributed between the 2 groups.
- After imputing data on missing covariates and adjusting for baseline differences investigators found no overall difference in mortality rates between the anti-TNF and the non-biologic DMARD cohort (weighted HR 0.86 (95% CI 0.64, 1.16)).
- A similar pattern of mortality risk was found for each of the three leading causes of death within the cohort: circulatory disease (weighted HR 0.73 (95% CI 0.44, 1.23), neoplasm (weighted HR 0.65 (95% CI 0.39, 1.09)) and respiratory disease (weighted HR 0.81 (95% CI 0.36, 1.83)).

Conclusions: Compared to patients treated with standard DMARDs, the addition of anti-TNF therapy was not associated with an increase in mortality.

Note: The findings in this study are in contrast to 2 previous publications on mortality and anti-TNF, one from the BIOBADASER in Spain (Carmona 07) and the second (Jacobsson) from the South Swedish Arthritis Treatment Group (SSATG), both of which found a substantial reduction in mortality in anti-TNF treated patients compared to those receiving standard DMARD therapy. The size of these studies (only 51 deaths in the Swedish study and 20 in the Spanish study), prevented a detailed breakdown of underlying causes of death.

Reviewer Comments

- Patients were participants in the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR). The primary aim of the BSRBR is to assess the long-term safety of these agents in patients with RA, with a goal recruitment of at least 4000 patients starting each of the three therapies. It reached this target for etanercept in May 2005, for infliximab in 2007 and for adalimumab at the end of 2008.
- The primary outcome in this study was death. Mortality rates between the anti-TNF treated and comparison cohorts were compared using Cox proportional hazards models and are presented as hazard ratios (HR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI).
- Underlying cause of death was death certificate.
- Models using logistic regression were employed for baseline adjustment in this observational study.

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- Based on this observational registry data, the evidence is insufficient to conclude that there is a mortality difference between these three TNFIs and non-biologic DMARDs in the treatment of RA.

Key Points

- No overall difference in mortality rates between IFX, ADA and ETN and the non-biologic DMARD cohort (weighted HR 0.86 (95% CI 0.64 to 1.16)). 12,672 patients with RA were recruited to the anti-TNF cohort (4,420 ETN, 4,161 IFX, 4,091 ADA).

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MARCHESONI 09_Registry_Lombardy Italy withdraw_infections FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Marchesoni 09

Citation: Marchesoni A, Zaccara E, Gorla R, Bazzani C, Sarzi-Puttini P, Atzeni F, Caporali R, Bobbio-Pallavicini F, Favalli EG. TNF-alpha antagonist survival rate in a cohort of rheumatoid arthritis patients observed under conditions of standard clinical practice. *Ann N Y Acad Sci.* 2009 Sep;1173:837-46. PubMed PMID: 19758236.

Study Type: Registry Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: Only disclosure is that authors have received consultancy fees or Congress invitations from Schering-Plough, Wyeth and Abbott.

Abstract

A cohort of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients in the Lombardy Rheumatology Network (LOHREN) registry and receiving anti-TNF therapy was evaluated after 6, 12, 24, and 36 months. Of the 1114 patients in the registry 1064 met the clinical criteria for inclusion with 519 receiving infliximab, 303 adalimumab, and 242 etanercept.

Results

The therapeutic survival curve of these patients showed that the likelihood of continuing anti-TNF therapy was 78.8% after 12 months, 65.2% after 24 months, and 52.9% after 36 months, with a risk of dropout similar for inefficacy and adverse events. There were 405 anti-TNF therapy discontinuations (38.1%): 180 (16.9%) due to inefficacy, 194 (18.2%) adverse events, and 31 (2.9%) other reasons. Four deaths (2 septicemia, 1 postinfective cerebritis, 1 heart failure) were considered to be related to anti-TNF therapy. Of the discontinuations, 219 (54.1%) occurred within the first 12 months: 110 due to adverse events, 89 inefficacy, and 20 due to other reasons.

After 36 months, the likelihood of survival on etanercept (62.5%) was significantly greater than the likelihood of survival on infliximab (49.1%) or adalimumab (53.6%). The risk of ETN discontinuation started to be less than that of the other two agents between month 6 and 12, and was about 37.5% by month 36, when the risk of discontinuing adalimumab was 46.4% and the risk of discontinuing infliximab was 50.9% ($P = 0.027$). A higher risk of therapy discontinuations due to adverse events was associated with increasing age, a corticosteroid > 5 mg/day, a high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), a higher risk of therapy discontinuations due to inefficacy was associated with the previous use of $> = 4$ disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and a high ESR. Comorbidities, increasing DAS28 values and co-therapy with methotrexate were associated with a lower risk of discontinuation.

Authors' Comments

In a setting of clinical practice, 1064 patients with RA refractory to DMARD therapy attending four different rheumatology centers had a likelihood of anti-TNF- α treatment retention rate of 78.8% after 12 months, 65.2% after 24 months, and 52.9% after 36 months. Adverse events were more likely than a lack of efficacy to cause drug discontinuations during the first 12 months of therapy, but not after 3 years. Serious infections were the most frequent adverse events responsible for drug discontinuation. Concomitant MTX greatly reduced the likelihood of drug discontinuation due to inefficacy, whereas a daily corticosteroid dose of > 5 mg was associated with a higher risk of serious infections. Our data show that the long-term survival of etanercept (62.5% at month 36) was better than that of both infliximab (49.1%) and adalimumab (53.6%).

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab in RA
- Authors emphasize that this study was not designed to compare the three agents.
- Authors point out that the drugs became available at different times.
- The three groups were poorly matched with regard to disease duration, activity, and disability because the infliximab group had significantly higher DAS28 and DI-HAQ mean values, and a significantly larger number of patients who were RF positive, in functional class III, and on MTX. Therefore, patients treated with infliximab had a significantly higher level of disease activity and disability at the start of therapy.
- The number of patients receiving infliximab was much higher.
- Description from Favalli 08: Registry described as regional population-based registry in Italy. Described as including a cohort of all RA patients treated with anti-TNF agents in 4 major rheumatology units in Lombardy, Italy since 1999. Registry is described by authors as having an observational, everyday-practice design. In consequence, non-serious infections are often missing or incomplete—which raises questions about completeness of serious infections. Only infectious events recorded in medical charges or during outpatient visits were available for study. [Authors agree that infections may have been underreported.]
- The database includes all of the demographic features, clinical parameters and therapeutic data usually required to follow RA patients in clinical practice.
- Study is retrospective.
- The registry records only data collected baseline, after 6 months, 12 months and annually thereafter.
- Only data relating to the first 36 had been validated; however, there is no description of validation methods.
- No independent data validation efforts were described.
- All of the patients were treated in accordance with the Italian Society of Rheumatology guidelines for the use of anti-TNF- α agents: a diagnosis of RA (ACR criteria); failure to respond to at least one course of combination therapy with full-dose traditional disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), one of which should always be methotrexate (MTX) unless contraindicated; and active

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disease as defined by a 28-joint Disease Activity Score (DAS28) of >3.5 . Active infection, a history of malignancy, pre-malignant conditions, class III/IV congestive heart failure, and demyelinating disorders were absolute exclusion criteria. There was initially no specific indication concerning tubercular infection but, as soon as the role of anti-TNF- α agents in reactivating latent tuberculosis (TB) became clear, the patients had to be screened for the presence of previous or latent TB (history, Mantoux test, chest radiography). TB-positive patients could be treated with anti-TNF- α agents only after at least 3 weeks of anti-TB therapy, which had to be continued for at least 9 months.

- Patients' data were reported for first agent regardless of switching.
- There was no comparison population of non-treated patients.
- Authors report that only patients with at least 6 months data were included. However, they also state that they analyzed data for patients who had discontinued therapy within the first 6 months. Of 1114 patients recorded in the registry, 104 (9%) had been followed fewer than 6 months, but 54 of these patients had discontinued within the first 6 months and so were included in the analysis. 1064 (95.5%) of patients were, therefore, included in the analysis.
- The patients contributed to the survival models until the time of first discontinuation or the last time of observation on treatment during the first 36 months of treatment. The patients who discontinued therapy due to clinical remission were included in the analyses and censored at the time of drug discontinuation.
- Of the 194 discontinuations due to adverse events, 73 were serious infections (42 infliximab, 20 adalimumab, and 11 etanercept), 18 malignancies (6 infliximab, 8 adalimumab, and 4 etanercept), 58 local skin reactions or infusion intolerances (48 infliximab, 8 adalimumab, and 2 etanercept), 13 deaths (3 infliximab, 5 adalimumab, and 5 etanercept), and 32 other adverse events (6 infliximab, 19 adalimumab, and 7 etanercept).
- Various factors lead to death. Vascular disease was responsible for eight deaths; a relationship to therapy was considered likely or certain in four patients (three infections and one heart failure). At the time of data analysis, another three patients had died (one of myocardial infarction, one of heart failure, and one because of a road accident). As all of them had discontinued anti-TNF- α therapy at least one year before the event, any relationship to therapy was considered very unlikely.
- During the first year, infliximab and adalimumab were stopped more frequently because of adverse events (54.5% and 48.4% of the total number of discontinuations for each respectively) than because of inefficacy (38.4% and 43.8%); the number of discontinuations of etanercept for each reason was the same (41.9%).
- The survival curves of the three anti-TNF- α agents show the performance of etanercept was significantly better than the other agents, with a risk of discontinuation that started to be less than that of the other two agents between month 6 and 12, and was about 37.5% by month 36, when the risk of discontinuing adalimumab was 46.4% and the risk of discontinuing infliximab was 50.9% ($P = 0.027$). Significant differences in the risk of therapy discontinuation by each of the individual clinical features recorded at the start of anti-TNF- α treatment were noted. The risk of discontinuing etanercept was significantly higher than the risk of discontinuing either adalimumab or infliximab. Previous DMARD therapy with ≥ 3 agents (vs. ≤ 2), the use of corticosteroids at a dose of >5 mg/day (vs. no corticosteroid use), more tender joints, and higher ESR values were all associated with a significantly higher risk of therapy discontinuation. A significantly lower risk of anti-TNF- α discontinuation was associated with MTX cotherapy and high DAS28 values. Analysis of the risk of discontinuation due to inefficacy or adverse events showed that age was significantly associated with adverse events, adalimumab therapy with adverse events, infliximab therapy with a lack/loss of efficacy, four or more DMARDs before anti-TNF- α therapy with inefficacy, a steroid dose of >5 mg/day with adverse events, and high ESR values with both inefficacy and adverse events. MTX was significantly associated with a lower risk of discontinuations due to inefficacy and, strangely enough, co-morbidity was associated with a lower risk of discontinuations due to adverse events.

**Risk of Withdrawal by Biologic DMARD Agent
Registry Studies (Marchesoni 09)**

Agents	Outcomes
36 Months Study	Likelihood of Continuing Agent ("Survival")
ETN	62.5%*
ADA	53.6%
IFX	49.1%

* $P < 0.05$ for difference between ETN and other agents

- Authors state that their data show that the long-term survival of etanercept (62.5% at month 36) was better than that of both infliximab (49.1%) and adalimumab (53.6%), and the previously mentioned observational studies found that the etanercept retention rate was similar to, or higher than that of the other drugs. The available data therefore seem to indicate that the likelihood of continuing therapy with etanercept is greater than that of the other two anti-TNF- α agents. They found that the risk of discontinuing infliximab was mainly due to primary or secondary loss of efficacy, whereas the risk of discontinuing adalimumab was mainly due to adverse events. However, this was not true in the first 12 months of therapy, during which both were more likely to be discontinued because of unwanted effects. The discontinuations of etanercept were equally likely to be due to adverse events or inefficacy throughout the study period. The difference in the reason for infliximab discontinuations in the first 12 months was probably attributable to infusion reactions, which were responsible for 31 drug discontinuations in the first year and 17 in the following 2 years.

Results

After 36 months, the likelihood of continuing on the drug (referred to as "survival") on ETN was 62.5% which was significantly higher than the likelihood of survival on IFX (49.1%) or ADA (53.6%). The risk of ETN discontinuation was lower than for the other two agents beginning at 6 months and was 37.5% by month 36, when the risk of discontinuing ADA was 46.4% and the risk of discontinuing IFX was 50.9% ($P = 0.027$).

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MARIETTE_Registry_FRANCE_LYMPHOMA_10_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Mariette 10

Citation: Mariette X, Tubach F, Bagheri H, Bardet M, Berthelot JM, Gaudin P, Heresbach D, Martin A, Schaeffer T, Salmon D, Lemann M, Hermine O, Raphael M, Ravaud P. Lymphoma in patients treated with anti-TNF: results of the 3-year prospective French RATIO registry. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2010 Feb;69(2):400-8. Epub 2009 Oct 14. PubMed PMID: 19828563; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2925048.

Study Type: Registry Cohort French RATIO

Manufacture Involvement: Authors have received consultancy fees from relevant manufacturers which had no role in the study. The RATIO Registry support includes unrestricted industry grant funding from mixed sources.

Abstract

OBJECTIVE

To describe cases of lymphoma associated with anti-TNF therapy, identify risk factors, estimate the incidence and compare the risks for different anti-TNF agents.

METHODS

A national prospective registry was designed (Research Aaxed on Tolerance of bIOtherapies; RATIO) to collect all cases of lymphoma in French patients receiving anti-TNF therapy from 2004 to [through] 2006, whatever the indication. A case-control analysis was conducted including two controls treated with anti-TNF per case and an incidence study of lymphoma with the French population was used as the reference.

RESULTS

38 cases of lymphoma, 31 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) (26 B cell and five T cell), five Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) and two Hodgkin's-like lymphoma were collected. Epstein-Barr virus was detected in both of two Hodgkin's-like lymphoma, three of five HL and one NHL. Patients receiving adalimumab or infliximab had a higher risk than those treated with etanercept: standardised incidence ratio (SIR) 4.1 (2.3-7.1) and 3.6 (2.3-5.6) versus 0.9 (0.4-1.8). The exposure to adalimumab or infliximab versus etanercept was an independent risk factor for lymphoma in the case-control study: odds ratio 4.7 (1.3-17.7) and 4.1 (1.4-12.5), respectively. The sex and age-adjusted incidence rate of lymphoma was 42.1 per 100 000 patient-years. The SIR was 2.4 (95% CI 1.7 to 3.2).

CONCLUSION

The two to threefold increased risk of lymphoma in patients receiving anti-TNF therapy is similar to that expected for such patients with severe inflammatory diseases. Some lymphomas associated with immunosuppression may occur, and the risk of lymphoma is higher with monoclonal-antibody therapy than with soluble-receptor therapy.

COMPARISON OF INDIVIDUAL DRUGS

- Patients were those receiving anti-TNF agents without restriction for underlying disease
- Standardized incidence ratios (French population was used for comparison) in patients receiving ADA or IFX were higher than for those treated with ETN: standardized incidence ratio (SIR) 4.1 (2.3-7.1) and 3.6 (2.3-5.6) versus 0.9 (0.4-1.8).
- Investigators collected data on 41 cases of lymphomas, and 38 cases were validated. Among them, 31 were NHL (26 B-cell and 5 T-cell), 5 HL and 2 Hodgkin's-like lymphoma.
- The exposure to adalimumab or infliximab versus etanercept was an independent risk factor for lymphoma in an included case-control study: odds ratio 4.7 (1.3-17.7) and 4.1 (1.4-12.5), respectively.
- The sex and age-adjusted incidence rate of lymphoma was 42.1 per 100 000 patient-years. The authors concluded that the risk of lymphoma is higher with monoclonal-antibody therapy than with soluble-receptor therapy.
- The authors contrast their results with three previous observational cohort studies (Wolfe 07, Asking 08 and Wolfe 04) and state that previous studies failed to demonstrate a difference between the treatments in risk of lymphoma due to insufficient power and that although the design of the RATIO study has limitations, it is probably the only way (or at least the most powerful way) to investigate difference in risk with use of anti-TNF agents.

AUTHORS SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

Even though the overall risk of lymphoma in RA patients treated with anti-TNF therapy does not appear to differ greatly from what is expected in a population of patients with inflammatory diseases, the risk differs depending on the anti-TNF drug used (higher risk with monoclonal anti-TNF therapy, adalimumab and infliximab). This difference in risk depending on agent was found in the case-control study and confirmed in the comparison of incidence with the general population, which supports the robustness of this finding.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, , infliximab in any indication
- Registry described as prospective and mandatory for the purpose of collecting all cases of lymphoma in French patients receiving anti-TNF therapy, regardless of indication from February 2004 through 2006. Multiple mailings and reminders encouraged physicians to report cases.
- Cases were all validated cases of lymphoma in the RATIO registry with a labeling indication for use of anti-TNF treatment (i.e. RA,

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spondylarthropathy, Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn's disease or psoriasis). Controls were lymphoma-free patients receiving anti-TNF treatment in a labeling indication were included from centers participating in the RATIO registry (thus from the same population source) in a global pool of controls. From that pool, investigators randomly selected patients for a database of controls reflecting the proportion of patients receiving each of the three anti-TNF drug in France. Two controls per case were randomly matched by sex, age (within 5 years) and underlying inflammatory disease from this database of controls. They also used a second sample of controls randomly selected from the same database of controls, with the same matching criteria (second matching).

- Authors estimated the annual incidence rate of lymphoma in patients treated with anti-TNF therapy, adjusted for age and sex, with the French population as a reference.
- The underlying disease was RA in 27 cases, AS in 4 cases and psoriatic arthritis in 3 cases, Crohn's disease in 3 cases and primary Sjögren's syndrome in one case. Secondary Sjögren's syndrome was present in 3 of 27 patients with RA and lymphoma.
- Population for comparison was selected randomly and matched by sex, age within 5 years and underlying inflammatory disease.
- Cases of lymphoma were validated by consensus of 3 experts using detailed standardized case report form and additional documents. Biopsies were validated by single hematopathologist, including presence of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).
- Sensitivity analyses were undertaken.
- The main analysis relied on a total number of 57,711 patient-years of use of anti-TNF therapy during the 2004–2006 period, as the denominator of the incidence rate. The annual incidence rate of lymphoma adjusted for age and sex among patients receiving anti-TNF therapy, with the French population as a reference, was 42.1 (95% CI 6.9 to 77.2 per 100,000 person-years).
- The incidence rates for patients receiving etanercept, adalimumab, and infliximab were 15.3 (95% CI 0.0 to 45.6) per 100,000 person-years, 65.1 (95% CI 0.0 to 160.0) per 100,000 person-years and 69.1 (95% CI 0.0 to 150.4) per 100,000 person-years, respectively. The SIRs were 0.9 (0.4 to 1.8; $p=0.72$), 4.1 (2.3 to 7.1; $p<0.0001$), and 3.6 (2.3 to 5.6; $p<0.0001$), respectively. Authors found a difference between etanercept and monoclonal-antibody therapy in the main analysis and in the sensitivity analyses, even when they separately used the different estimates from independent sources, which gave very consistent adjusted incidence rates and SIRs.
- In the multivariate analysis, 2 factors were independently associated with occurrence of lymphoma in patients receiving anti-TNF therapy: anti-TNF treatment duration less than 2 years (OR=3.30 [1.17 to 9.30]) and treatment with infliximab or adalimumab versus etanercept (OR=4.12 [1.36 to 12.49] and OR=4.73 [1.27 to 17.65], respectively). In the case-control study restricted to RA cases, only one factor was associated with occurrence of lymphoma: treatment with infliximab or adalimumab versus etanercept (OR=6.68 [1.90 to 23.54]).
- Authors state a limitation of the study was that the denominator was estimated. Per Tubach 09, anti-TNF manufacturers obtained estimation of patient-years based on number of doses sold and mean dosage used for each indication. The mean of these different estimates was used to estimate number of patients receiving each anti-TNF agent. Authors report that sensitivity analyses using independent sources gave consistent adjusted incidence rates and standardized incidence ratios (SIRs).
- Difference in risk depending on agents was consistent in the case-control study and also in the comparison with incidence with the general population.

Reviewer Comments

- Authors attempts to minimize bias:
 - Regarding possible reporting differences: reporting of adverse events could be lower in patients treated sub-cutaneously (SC; i.e. etanercept and adalimumab) outside the hospital. But, in France, the SC-treated patients are mandatorily seen by hospital physicians initially and yearly for renewal. Moreover, the lack of AE reporting is a main issue for minor side effects, but not for life-threatening side effects, particularly lymphomas that are a major concern for physicians and patients regarding anti-TNF agents. Furthermore, the patients treated with anti TNF agents that have lymphomas could be notified to RATIO by the anti-TNF agent prescriber (rheumatologist, gastro-enterologist, internist or others), by the oncohaematologist, or by the pharmacovigilance regional center. Finally, the authors found that the risk of lymphoma was similar for adalimumab and infliximab, that share the same mechanism of action (different from the one of etanercept), but adalimumab is a subcutaneous anti-TNF agent and infliximab I.V. anti-TNF agent.
 - Possible severity of disease differences: indirect markers of disease activity (median duration of the inflammatory underlying disease, percentage of patients treated with steroids, frequency of positive rheumatoid factor and anti-CCP in RA patients) were not greater in patients treated with infliximab or adalimumab than in those treated with etanercept. Also patients starting DMARDs before 2002 were at higher risk and so the comparison between the type of drug used and risk was adjusted for the time from onset of anti-TNF treatment.
- **Note:** Previous observational studies in RA patients have not reported an increased risk with anti-TNF agents compared to RA patients not taking TNFIs, e.g.:
 - OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.6 to 1.8) was reported by Wolfe 07a;
 - RR 1.0 (95% CI 0.6 to 1.8) was reported by Wolfe 07b;
 - RR 1.35 (95% CI 0.82 to 2.11) was reported by Askling 08;
 - RR 1.11 (95% CI 0.51 to 2.37) was reported by Wolfe 04.
- It is likely that these studies were underpowered to demonstrate a statistically significant difference between groups.

Summary Risk of Lymphoma by Biologic DMARD Agent French RATIO Registry Study* Standardized Incidence Ratios (SIR) of IFX, ADA and Odds Ratio of IFX and ADA Versus ETN (Mariette 10)

Agent	SIR with French Population as Reference	Odds Ratio of Agent Compared to ETN
IFX	3.6 (95% CI 2.3 to 5.6)	4.1 (95% CI 1.4 to 12.5)
ADA	4.1 (95% CI 2.3 to 7.1)	4.7 (95% CI 1.3 to 17.7)

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ETN	0.9 (95% CI 0.4 to 1.8)	Reference agent
All Anti-TNF	12.2 (95% CI 9.7 to 15.5)	Not reported

*Population French subjects without restriction for underlying disease

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MENTER PSORIASIS IFX RCT MALIG 06 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Menter 06

Citation: Menter A, Feldman SR, Weinstein GD, Papp K, Evans R, Guzzo C, Li S, Dooley LT, Arnold C, Gottlieb AB. A randomized comparison of continuous vs. intermittent infliximab maintenance regimens over 1 year in the treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2007 Jan;56(1):31.e1-15. Epub 2006 Sep 6. PubMed PMID: 17097378.

Study Type: RCT

Agents of Interest: IFX in psoriasis

Safety Outcomes: Reported adverse events

Manufacture Involvement: One author employed by Centocor. Supported by Centocor, Inc, Malvern, Penn, and Schering-Plough, Kenilworth, NJ.

RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM PUBLISHED ABSTRACT AND TEXT

Background: Previous studies of infliximab in psoriasis have demonstrated rapid improvement with induction therapy and sustained response with regularly administered maintenance therapy.

Objective: The efficacy and safety of continuous (every 8-week) and intermittent (as-needed) maintenance regimens were compared.

Methods: Patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis (n = 835) were randomized to induction therapy (weeks 0, 2, and 6) with infliximab 3 mg/kg or 5 mg/kg or placebo. Infliximab-treated patients were randomized again at week 14 to continuous or intermittent maintenance regimens at their induction dose.

Results: At week 10, 75.5% and 70.3% of patients in the infliximab 5 mg/kg and 3 mg/kg groups, respectively, achieved PASI 75; 45.2% and 37.1% achieved PASI 90 (vs 1.9% [PASI 75] and 0.5% [PASI 90] for placebo; P<.001). Through week 50, PASI responses were better maintained with continuous compared with intermittent therapy within each dose, and with 5 mg/kg compared with 3 mg/kg continuous therapy. Limitations: Longer term ([1 year) maintenance therapy and further study of infliximab serum concentrations over this period, in both PASI 75 responders and non-responders, would be preferable.

Conclusions: Through week 50, response was best maintained with continuous infliximab therapy. Infliximab was generally well-tolerated in most patients. (*J Am Acad Dermatol* 2007;56:31.e1-31.e15.)

Reviewer Comments

N= 627 patients: a 1.9% malignancy rate in patients receiving IFX compared to no malignancies in the placebo group.

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MOHAN TB ETA ALL CONDITIONS 04 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Mohan 04

Citation: Mohan AK, Cote TR, Block JA, et al. Tuberculosis following the use of etanercept, a tumor necrosis factor inhibitor. Clin Infect Dis. 2004 Aug 1;39(3):295-9. PMID: 15306993

Study Design: Retrospective observational

Manufacture Involvement: No

<p>Abstract</p> <p>Infliximab, a tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonist, is associated with tuberculosis (TB), but it is unknown whether this phenomenon is true of all TNF antagonists. We reviewed 25 cases of TB due to another TNF antagonist, etanercept, that were reported to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) between November 1998 and March 2002. Such cases are sometimes incomplete and are subject to underreporting. Fifteen patients received other immunosuppressive medications. The median interval between the receipt of the first dose of etanercept and the diagnosis of TB was 11.5 months. Thirteen patients had extrapulmonary TB at the time of diagnosis. Diagnosis was made on the basis of culture results for 12 patients, biopsy findings for 9, and sputum staining for 4. There were 2 deaths, 1 of which was directly attributed to TB. The estimated number of TB cases reported to the FDA for each person-year of treatment with etanercept (i.e., the “reporting rate”) among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was ~10 cases/100,000 patient-years of exposure. Clinicians considering etanercept for patients with RA should be alert to the possibility of the occurrence of TB, sometimes with an unusual extrapulmonary presentation. It is unclear whether etanercept therapy increases the risk of TB beyond the elevated TB rates already documented for patients with RA.</p>
<p>Reviewer Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agents of Interest: ETA in all conditions Results based on combination of selected RCT data and observational data resulting in high risk of selection, performance, attrition, reporting and assessment biases.

Summary

- As of April 2002, a total of 25 reports of TB associated with etanercept therapy had been reported to the FDA from November 1998 through March 2002. The authors contacted all 25 diagnosing physicians. Seventeen cases (68%) were reported from the United States, 7 (28%) were reported from Europe, and 1 (4%) was reported from India. Nine (36%) of the 25 cases were diagnosed in 2000, 15 (60%) were diagnosed during 2001, and 1 (4%) was diagnosed during the first 3 months of 2002. The median age at the time of TB diagnosis was 59 years (range, 9–84 years); 18 (72%) of the 25 patients were female. Indications for etanercept therapy were as follows: RA, 20 cases (80%); juvenile RA, 2 (8%); and psoriatic arthritis, panniculitis (not indicated in product package insert), and chronic heart failure (not indicated in product package insert), 1 case (4%) each. Concomitant with etanercept therapy, 21 patients (84%) received corticosteroids (3 patients), methotrexate (6), or both (12). The median interval between the initiation of etanercept treatment and the diagnosis of TB was 11.5 months (range, 1 to 20 months). Eleven (46%) of the 24 patients with a reported clinical manifestation had pulmonary TB exclusively, but 13 (54%) received the following diagnoses of extrapulmonary disease: disseminated disease (3 patients), tuberculous lymphadenitis (5 patients, including 2 with scrofula), and pleural, articular (in the same joint affected by rheumatoid arthritis), spinal, meningeal, and peritoneal disease (1 patient each). Diagnosis of TB was made on the basis of positive Mycobacterium tuberculosis cultures in 12 cases (48%), acid-fast bacilli (AFB)–positive biopsy specimens in 9 cases (36%), and AFB-positive sputum smears in 4 cases (16%). Two deaths occurred among the 25 patients, 1 of which resulted from disseminated TB leading to tuberculous meningitis.
- Small, retrospective observational study of TB following the use of ETN based on data reported to the Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through March 2002, the estimated number of TB cases reported to the FDA for each person-year of treatment with ETN (i.e., the “reporting rate”) in patients with RA was approximately 10 cases/100,000 patient-years of exposure

Risk of TB by Biologic DMARD (Mohan 04, Wolfe 04)		
Agent	Reference	Incidence of TB / 100,000 PY
ETN	Mohan 04, FDA reports ADEs to FDA between Nov 1998 and March 2002	10 cases (95% CI not provided) [compare to Wolfe 04]
IFX	Wolfe 04, Prospective cohort study 2 Yrs N=6,460	52.5 cases (95% CI 14.3 to 134.4)

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NAM CRITIQUE SR adal inflix etan 10_final

AUTHOR YR: Nam 10

Citation: Nam JL, Winthrop KL, van Vollenhoven RF, Pavelka K, Valesini G, Hensor EM, Worthy G, Landewe R, Smolen JS, Emery P, Buch MH. Current evidence for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: a systematic literature review informing the EULAR recommendations for the management of RA. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2010 Jun;69(6):976-86. PMID: 20447957

Supplementary material obtained from <http://ard.bmj.com/content/suppl/2010/05/17/ard.2009.126573.DC1.html>

Study Type: SR

Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, certolizumab etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, in RA

Safety Outcomes: Serious infections, cancer, tuberculosis, lymphoma, demyelinating disease

Manufacture Involvement: No.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACT OR STUDY SAFETY DATA

OBJECTIVES: To review the evidence for the efficacy and safety of biological agents in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to provide data to develop treatment recommendations by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Task Force.

METHODS: Medline, Embase and Cochrane databases were searched for relevant articles on infliximab (IFX), etanercept (ETN), adalimumab (ADA), certolizumab-pegol (CZP), golimumab (GLM), anakinra (ANA), abatacept (ABT), rituximab (RTX) and tocilizumab (TCZ) published between 1962 and February 2009; published abstracts from the 2007-2008 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and EULAR conference were obtained. **RESULTS:** 87 articles and 40 abstracts were identified

Search: A systematic literature search was performed from 1962 to February 2009 using Medline, Embase and Cochrane databases. Studies evaluating nine biological agents: infliximab (IFX), etanercept (ETN), adalimumab (ADA), certolizumab-pegol (CZP), golimumab (GLM), anakinra (ANA), abatacept (ABT), rituximab (RTX) and tocilizumab (TCZ) were included. Abstracts were also obtained from the 2007-8 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and EULAR conferences. Where full papers of these abstracts were published online during this period, the latter were obtained and used for data extraction. 1962-2009.

Methods: For toxicity data, standardized incidence rates (with general population figures or those available for RA patients not on biological agents as the control) were extracted and risk ratios, odds ratios or hazards ratios documented.

Results: TNFi are generally associated with an increased risk of serious bacterial infection, particularly within the first 6 months of treatment initiation; increased tuberculosis (TB) rates with TNFi are highest with the monoclonal antibodies.

Authors' Conclusions: Safety data confirm an increased risk of bacterial infection and TB with TNFi compared with conventional DMARDs. The safety review shows no increased malignancy risk compared with conventional DMARDs. TNFi are generally associated with an increased risk of serious bacterial infection, particularly within the first 6 months of treatment initiation; increased tuberculosis (TB) rates with TNFi are highest with the monoclonal antibodies.

Reviewer Comments

- Evidence current through January 2009 (date of search)
- Most or all of the included clinical trials are likely to have been underpowered to reliably detect safety differences between groups if they existed.
- Safety outcomes of interest were frequently not prespecified.
- Registry data is observational.
- CZP, GLM and IFX demonstrated signals of possibly higher incidence of severe infections but results are inconclusive.
- Observational studies report higher mortality rates in RA patients and in RA patients taking biological agents compared to the general population.
- Observational study reported reduced risk for overall mortality in patients taking TNF inhibitors.

Primary Studies Included in Delfini Review

1.	Bathon JM, Martin RW, Fleischmann RM, Tesser JR, Schiff MH, Keystone EC, Genovese MC, Wasko MC, Moreland LW, Weaver AL, Markenson J, Finck BK. A comparison of etanercept and methotrexate in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2000 Nov 30;343(22):1586-93.
2.	Bejarano V, Quinn M, Conaghan PG, Reece R, Keenan AM, Walker D, Gough A, Green M, McGonagle D, Adebajo A, Jarrett S, Doherty S, Hordon L, Melsom R, Unnebrink K, Kupper H, Emery P. Effect of the early use of the anti-tumor necrosis factor adalimumab on the prevention of job loss in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2008 Oct 15;59(10):1467-74.
3.	Breedveld FC, Weisman MH, Kavanaugh AF, Cohen SB, Pavelka K, van Vollenhoven R, Sharp J, Perez JL, Spencer-Green GT. The

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	PREMIER study: A multicenter, randomized, double-blind clinical trial of combination therapy with adalimumab plus methotrexate versus methotrexate alone or adalimumab alone in patients with early, aggressive rheumatoid arthritis who had not had previous methotrexate treatment. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006 Jan;54(1):26-37.
4.	Combe B, Codreanu C, Fiocco U, Gaubitz M, Geusens PP, Kvien TK, Pavelka K, Sambrook PN, Smolen JS, Khandker R, Singh A, Wajdula J, Fatenejad S. Efficacy, safety and patient-reported outcomes of combination etanercept and sulfasalazine versus etanercept alone in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a double-blind randomised 2-year study. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2009 Jul;68(7):1146-52.
5.	Combe B, Codreanu C, Fiocco U, Gaubitz M, Geusens PP, Kvien TK, Pavelka K, Sambrook PN, Smolen JS, Wajdula J, Fatenejad S. Etanercept and sulfasalazine, alone and combined, in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite receiving sulfasalazine: a double-blind comparison. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2006 Oct;65(10):1357-62.
6.	Dixon WG, Hyrich KL, Watson KD, et al. Drug-Specific Risk of Tuberculosis in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis Treated with Anti-TNF Therapy: Results from the BSRBR ACR abstract 1263. 2008.
7.	Dixon WG, Hyrich KL, Watson KD, Lunt M, Galloway J, Ustianowski A, Symmons DP. Drug-specific risk of tuberculosis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with anti-TNF therapy: results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR). <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2010 Mar;69(3):522-8. [Update of 2007 abstract].
8.	Emery P, Breedveld FC, Hall S, Durez P, Chang DJ, Robertson D, Singh A, Pedersen RD, Koenig AS, Freundlich B. Comparison of methotrexate monotherapy with a combination of methotrexate and etanercept in active, early, moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (COMET): a randomised, double-blind, parallel treatment trial. <i>Lancet</i> 2008 Aug 2;372(9636):375-82.
9.	Emery P, Breedveld FC, Hall S, Durez P, Chang DJ, Robertson D, Singh A, Pedersen RD, Koenig AS, Freundlich B. Comparison of methotrexate monotherapy with a combination of methotrexate and etanercept in active, early, moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (COMET): a randomised, double-blind, parallel treatment trial. <i>Lancet</i> 2008 Aug 2;372(9636):375-82.
10.	Emery P, Fleischmann RM, Moreland LW, Hsia EC, Strusberg I, Durez P, Nash P, Amante EJ, Churchill M, Park W, Pons-Estel BA, Doyle MK, Visvanathan S, Xu W, Rahman MU. Golimumab, a human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody, injected subcutaneously every four weeks in methotrexate-naïve patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: twenty-four-week results of a phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of golimumab before methotrexate as first-line therapy for early-onset rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2009 Aug;60(8):2272-83.
11.	Fleischmann R, Vencovsky J, van Vollenhoven RF, Borenstein D, Box J, Coteur G, Goel N, Brezinschek HP, Innes A, Strand V. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol monotherapy every 4 weeks in patients with rheumatoid arthritis failing previous disease-modifying antirheumatic therapy: the FAST4WARD study. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2009 Jun;68(6):805-11.
12.	Furst DE, Schiff MH, Fleischmann RM, et al. Adalimumab, a fully human anti tumor necrosis factor-alpha monoclonal antibody, and concomitant standard antirheumatic therapy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: results of STAR (Safety Trial of Adalimumab in Rheumatoid Arthritis).[see comment]. <i>Journal of Rheumatology</i> . 2003;30:2563-2571.
13.	Gomez-Reino JJ, Carmona L, Angel Descalzo M. Risk of tuberculosis in patients treated with tumor necrosis factor antagonists due to incomplete prevention of reactivation of latent infection. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2007 Jun 15;57(5):756-61.
14.	Keystone E, Heijde D, Mason D, Jr., Landewe R, Vollenhoven RV, Combe B, Emery P, Strand V, Mease P, Desai C, Pavelka K. Certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate is significantly more effective than placebo plus methotrexate in active rheumatoid arthritis: findings of a fifty-two-week, phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2008 Nov;58(11):3319-29.
15.	Keystone EC, Kavanaugh AF, Sharp JT, Tannenbaum H, Hua Y, Teoh LS, Fischkoff SA, Chartash EK. Radiographic, clinical, and functional outcomes of treatment with adalimumab (a human anti-tumor necrosis factor monoclonal antibody) in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis receiving concomitant methotrexate therapy: a randomized, placebo-controlled, 52-week trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2004 May;50(5):1400-11.
16.	Kim H, Lee S, Song Y, Yoo D, Koh EM, Yoo B, et al. A randomized, doubleblind, placebo controlled, phase III study of the human anti-tumor necrosis factor antibody adalimumab administered as subcutaneous injections in Korean rheumatoid arthritis patients treated with methotrexate. <i>APLAR Journal of Rheumatology</i> . 2007;10: 9-16.
17.	Klareskog L, van der Heijde D, de Jager JP, Gough A, Kalden J, Malaise M, Martin Mola E, Pavelka K, Sany J, Settas L, Wajdula J, Pedersen R, Fatenejad S, Sanda M. Therapeutic effect of the combination of etanercept and methotrexate compared with each treatment alone in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: double-blind randomised controlled trial. <i>Lancet</i> 2004 Feb 28;363(9410):675-81
18.	Maini R, St Clair EW, Breedveld F, Furst D, Kalden J, Weisman M, Smolen J, Emery P, Harriman G, Feldmann M, Lipsky P. Infliximab (chimeric anti-tumour necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody) versus placebo in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving concomitant methotrexate: a randomised phase III trial. ATTRACT Study Group. <i>Lancet</i> 1999 Dec 4;354(9194):1932-9.
19.	Moreland LW, Schiff MH, Baumgartner SW, Tindall EA, Fleischmann RM, Bulpitt KJ, Weaver AL, Keystone EC, Furst DE, Mease PJ, Ruderman EM, Horwitz DA, Arkfeld DG, Garrison L, Burge DJ, Blosch CM, Lange ML, McDonnell ND, Weinblatt ME. Etanercept therapy in rheumatoid arthritis. A randomized, controlled trial. <i>Ann Intern Med</i> 1999 Mar 16;130(6):478-86.
20.	Smolen J, Landewe RB, Mease P, Brzezicki J, Mason D, Luijckens K, van Vollenhoven RF, Kavanaugh A, Schiff M, Burmester GR, Strand V, Vencovsky J, van der Heijde D. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate in active rheumatoid arthritis: the RAPID 2 study. A randomised controlled trial. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2009 Jun;68(6):797-804.
21.	St Clair EW, van der Heijde DM, Smolen JS, Maini RN, Bathon JM, Emery P, Keystone E, Schiff M, Kalden JR, Wang B, Dewoody K, Weiss R, Baker D. Combination of infliximab and methotrexate therapy for early rheumatoid arthritis: a randomized, controlled trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2004 Nov;50(11):3432-43.
22.	van de Putte LB, Atkins C, Malaise M, Sany J, Russell AS, van Riel PL, Settas L, Bijlsma JW, Todesco S, Dougados M, Nash P,

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	Emery P, Walter N, Kaul M, Fischkoff S, Kupper H. Efficacy and safety of adalimumab as monotherapy in patients with rheumatoid arthritis for whom previous disease modifying antirheumatic drug treatment has failed. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2004 May;63(5):508-16.
23.	Watson KD, Dixon WG, King YE, et al. Cause Specific Mortality in Patients Receiving Anti-TNF Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis: Results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register (BSRBR) <i>ACR abstract 976</i> . 2007.
24.	Weinblatt ME, Keystone EC, Furst DE, Moreland LW, Weisman MH, Birbara CA, Teoh LA, Fischkoff SA, Chartash EK. Adalimumab, a fully human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in patients taking concomitant methotrexate: the ARMADA trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2003 Jan;48(1):35-45.
25.	Weinblatt ME, Kremer JM, Bankhurst AD, Bulpitt KJ, Fleischmann RM, Fox RI, Jackson CG, Lange M, Burge DJ. A trial of etanercept, a recombinant tumor necrosis factor receptor:Fc fusion protein, in patients with rheumatoid arthritis receiving methotrexate. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1999 Jan 28;340(4):253-9.
26.	Westhovens R, Yocum D, Han J, Berman A, Strusberg I, Geusens P, Rahman MU. The safety of infliximab, combined with background treatments, among patients with rheumatoid arthritis and various comorbidities: a large, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006 Apr;54(4):1075-86.

RESULTS SUMMARY CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

Outcome	Findings Clinical Trials	Findings Observational Studies and Registries
<p>SERIOUS INFECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak signals of possible increased infection with TNF inhibitors. Evidence suggests differential serious infection outcomes with monoclonal antibodies IFX and ADA being associated with serious infection. 	<p>Several but not all trials reported increased rates of serious infections with TNFis; however, no P-values were reported; most trials reported similar serious infection rates in the study and comparison groups. Serious infections are relatively infrequent events and trials were almost certainly underpowered to detect statistically significant differences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CZP + MTX 6.3% vs placebo +MTX 2.2% (Keystone 08a) CZP 2.2% vs placebo +MTX 0 (Smolen 07) ADA 4% + MTX vs placebo +MTX 2.7% (Bejarano 08) ADA 2.3% vs placebo 0 (van de Putte 04) IFX + MTX 5.6% vs MTX 2.1%, P=0.04 (St Clair 04) IFX 3.2% vs placebo +MTX 1.7% (Westhovens 06) GLM 3% vs placebo +MTX 0.7% (Keystone 09) ETN 10% vs placebo +SSZ 0 (Combe 09) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFX +ADA compared to MTX was associated with increased rate serious infection in first 6 mos. IRR was 2.4 (95% CI 1.4 to 5.2) (Curtis 07). ETN was not associated with increased infection in first six months. IRR was 1.2 (95% CI 0.5 to 2.5) (Curtis 07).
<p>TUBERCULOSIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestive of increased risk with IFX and ADA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher rates TB in IFX+MTX group, 6% vs 0 in MTX group; no P-values (St. Clair 04) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFX: RR was approximately 3.4 times higher than for RA patients not taking TNF inhibitors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFX: Incidence 17/1578 (Gomez-Reino 03) ETN 0/1540 (Gomez-Reino 03) IFX: IRR compared with ETN-treated patients was 3.1 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.5) (Dixon 10). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFX: 5/1303 (1.2 to 8.7 mos) (Gomez-Reino 07) ETN: 1/1740 (<2.5 mos) (Gomez-Reino 07) IFX: RR 30.1 (95% CI 7.40 to 122.3) compared to general population (Seong 07) ETN: no increased risk compared to general population (Seong 07) ADA: IRR 4.2 (95% CI 1.4 to 12.4) compared to ETN (Dixon 10) ADA: 1/565 (14 mos) (Gomez-Reino 07) The median time to event was lowest for INF (5.5 months) compared with ETA (13.4 months) and ADA (18.5 months). Patients of non-white ethnicity had a sixfold increased risk of TB compared with white patients treated with anti-TNF therapy (Dixon 10 update of Dixon 08 abstract).

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Outcome	Findings Clinical Trials	Findings Observational Studies and Registries
REACTION AT INJECTION SITE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestive of increased risk with ETN compared to MTX. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETN vs MTX: 4% vs 7% (Weinblatt 99) ETN vs MTX: 0 vs 5.7% (Weinblatt 03) ETN vs MTX: 46.5% vs 13% (Moreland 99) ETN vs MTX: 16% vs 2% (Klareskog 04) ETN vs SSZ: 24% vs 2% (Combe 06) ETN vs SSZ: 27% vs 4% (Combe 09) ADA vs placebo: 10.6% vs 0.9% (van de Putte 04) 	Not reported
LYMPHOMA TRIALS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak signals from registry data that the incidence of lymphoma is increased with IFX or ADA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most trials did not report lymphoma rates No trial reported more than 2 cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase risk in RA patients overall and for RA patients when studies of different biologics are combined (Wolfe, 2004; Mariette 2008) Inconclusive results for individual agents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFX: SIR confidence intervals ranged from 0.6 to 4.9. ADA: SIR confidence levels 0.90 to 23.1. IFX or ADA: SIR confidence intervals ranged from 2.4 to 16.48. ETN: SIR confidence intervals ranged from 0.3 to 51.
MALIGNANCY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconclusive evidence regarding comparative risks of ADA, IFX, ETN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased malignancy rate with CZP; no P-value (Keystone 08a). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETN, IFX, ADA: no statistically significant risk compared to general population (Burmester 2008, Wolfe 2007, Klareskog 2008)
INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconclusive for increased risk for RA patients taking ETN and IFX. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETN, IFX: no statistically significant risk (comparison unclear) (Wolfe 2007).
DEMYELINATING DISEASE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOE: inconclusive for agents of interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported in most studies. Several studies reported no cases of demyelinating disease. Westhovens 06 reported 2 cases in placebo group at 22 weeks and 28 cases in IFX at 54 weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported
DEATH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconclusive regarding comparative safety of IFX, ADA, ETN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few reports; lack statistically significant differences between groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA, ETN, IFX: increased risk for overall mortality compared to general population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized mortality rate (SMR) Male=2 (95% CI 1.7 to 2.3); SMR Female =1.7 (95% CI 1.5 to 1.9) (Watson 2007). SMR 1.57 (95% CI 1.42 to 1.73) (Watson 2007). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neoplasms: NS Cardiovascular: Male=1.77 (95% CI 1.32-2.32); Female =1.26 (95% CI 1.01-1.54). ADA, ETN, IFX: reduced risk for overall mortality in patients taking TNF inhibitors compared to TNF inhibitor-naïve patients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR 0.85 (95% CI 0.77 to 0.95) (Jacobsson 08).

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REGISTRY DATA AND OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

LOE: Inconclusive—increased SIRs for ADA, ETN, IFX

Wolfe 2004	Populations	N	Standardized Incident Rates (SIR)	Reviewer Comments
	All RA	18572	1.9 (95% CI 1.3 to 2.7)	Increased rates in RA patients taking IFX or ETN.
	RA-MTX	5501	1.7 (95% CI 0.9 to 3.2)	
	RA biologics	8614	2.9 (95% CI 1.7 to 4.9)	
	IFX	5233	2.2 (95% CI 1.0 to 4.9)	
	ETN	2149	3.5 (95% CI 2.5 to 8.4)	
	ADA	58	0	
Wolfe 2007	Populations	N	Odds Ratios	Reviewer Comments
	RA patients	19591		Rates not statistically increased in RA patients taking MTX, IFX, ETN or ADA compared to all patients taking any TNFi. This could be due to a type II error.
	RA TNF	10815	1.0** (95% CI 0.6 to 1.8)	
	RA MTX		1.3*** (95% CI 0.7 to 2.4)	
	RA IFX		1.2*** (95% CI 0.6 to 2.2)	
	RA ETN		0.7*** (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6)	
	RA ADA		4.5*** (95% CI 0.9 to 23.1) (<i>only 56 cases; 2 lymphoma</i>)	
Burmester EULAR 2008	Populations	N	Standardized Incident Rates (SIR)	Reviewer Comments
	RA ADA	3421	3.81 (95% CI 1.90 to 6.81)	Increased rates with ADA compared with general population.
Klareskog EULAR 2008	Populations	N	Standardized Incident Rates (SIR)	Reviewer Comments
	RA ETN	2054	3.53 (95% CI 1.82 to 6.16)	Rates increased with ETN compared to general population.
Mariette ACR 2008 (French register)	Populations	N	Standardized Incident Rates (SIR)	Reviewer Comments
	Total TNF		2.11 (95% CI 1.48 to 3.00)# 4.87 (95% CI 2.33 to 10.24)##	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased rates in aggregate of all patients taking TNFi. • Increased rates in patients receiving IFX or ADA. • Rates not statistically increased in patients taking ETN.
	RA IFX or ADA		3.43 (95% CI 2.4 to 5.04)# 6.86 (95% CI 2.86 to 16.48)##	
	ETN		0.69 (95% CI 0.28 to 1.65)# 2.78 (95% CI 0.7 to 11.13)##	
	RA ETN		4.2 (95% CI 1.7 to 51)	
Weinblatt ACR 2008	Populations	N	Standardized Incident Rates (SIR)	Reviewer Comments
	RA ETN		4.2 (95% CI 1.7 to 51)	Increased rates with ETN compared to general population (SEER data)

- * Compared to general population
- ** compared to RA nonbiologic treated group
- *** compared to all other malignancies
- ^compared to methotrexate
- \$ patients with prior malignancies
- # non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- ##Hodgkin's lymphoma)

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

Included RCTs Biological Agents in RA Patients Who are
MTX Naïve, Incomplete Responders to MTX or Incomplete Responders to Other DMARDs

#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
1	St Clair 2004(ASPIRE) Months: 12 N: 1004 Age: ~50 Duration: ~0.9 yrs % DMARD Naive: ~67 % on steroids: ~38 % on NSAIDs: ~84 HAQ score: 1.5	Placebo+ MTX IFX 3 mg/Kg weekly + MTX IFX 6 mg/Kg weekly + MTX	PNEUMONIA: 0 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: 0 LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 0 DEMYELINATING: NR DEATH: 2 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (3.2) SERIOUS INFECTIONS (2.1%) PNEUMONIA: 8 (2) TB: 3 (0.8) INFUSION RXN: 2 (0.5) LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINAGING: NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (9.5) SERIOUS INFECTIONS:21 (5.6) P=0.02 PNEUMONIA: 11 (3) TB: 1 (0.3) INFUSION RXN: 2 (0.5) LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 4 (1) DEMYELINAGING: NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (9.6) SERIOUS INFECTIONS:19 (5) P=0.04	Generation Sequence: Yes Concealment Alloc: Yes Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/As sessors N Safety MTX: 291/298 N Safety IFX: 749/751	Placebo+ MTX vs IFX + MTX. Higher withdrawal due to adverse event in IFX +MTX group 9.6% .vs 3.2%; higher rates TB in IFX+MTX group, 6% vs 0; no P- value; higher rate serious infections in IFX + MTX group, 5% vs 2.1%, P = 0.04.
2.	Genovese 2002 Months: 24 N: 632 Age: ~50 Duration: 1 yrs % DMARD Naive: ~56 % on steroids: ~40 % on NSAIDs: ~83 HAQ score: 1.45	MTX ETN 10mg / 25mg sc. twice/week + placebo	PNEUMONIA: 3 (1) TB: NR INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: NR MALIGNANCY: NR DEMYELINAGING: NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 24 (11) SERIOUS INFECTIONS:NR PNEUMONIA: 0 TB: NR INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: NR MALIGNANCY: NR DEMYELINAGING: NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 11 (5); P< 0.04 for difference comparing 25mg ETN and MTX SERIOUS INFECTIONS:NR	Generation Sequence: Yes Concealment Alloc: Yes Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/As sessors N Safety MTX: 217/217 N Safety ETN: 415/415 ITT: Yes	MTX vs ETN 10mg / 25mg sc. twice/week + placebo: Statistically higher withdrawal due to adverse events in MTX group compared to ETN group; 11% vs 5%; P< 0.04 for 25mg ETN and MTX.
3	Emery 2008 (COMET) Months: 12 N: 542 Age: ~52 Duration: .75 yrs % DMARD Naive: ~79 % on steroids: ~50 % on NSAIDs: ~74	Placebo +MTX; N=268	PNEUMONIA: 1 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: NR MALIGNANCY: 4 DEMYELINAGING: 0 DEATH: ?1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 28 (10.2)	Generation Sequence: Yes Concealment Alloc: Yes Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/As sessors N Safety MTX:	Placebo +MTX vs ETN 50mg weekly + MTX: similar adverse event rates; may be underpowered to show differences.

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
			SERIOUS INFECTION:(4)* * NS for difference		
6.	Emery EULAR 2008 Months: 12 N:542 Age: ~51 Duration:~ .75 yrs % DMARD Naive: ~79% % on steroids: ~50% % on NSAIDs: ~74% HAQ score: NR Other: DAS 28 (disease activity score based on 28 joints): 6.5	MTX 20mg MTX 20mg + ETN 50 mg sc. weekly	PNEUMONIA: 1 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: NR MALIGNANCY:4 (1) DEMYELINAGING: 0 DEATH: ?1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 34 (12.7) SERIOUS INFECTION: 8 PNEUMONIA: 1 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: NR MALIGNANCY:4 (1) DEMYELINAGING: 0 DEATH: ?1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 28 (10.2) SERIOUS INFECTION: 5	Generation Sequence: Yes Concealment Alloc: Yes Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/As sessors N Safety MTX: 268/268 N Safety MTX +ETN:274/274 ITT: Yes (LOCF)	MTX 20mg vs MTX 20mg + ETN 50 mg sc. weekly; similar adverse event rates; may be underpowered to show differences.
7.	Emery EULAR 2009 Months: 6 N:637 Age: ~50 Duration:~ 1 yr % DMARD Naive: ~48% % on steroids: ~66% % on NSAIDs: ~97% HAQ score: ~1.5	Placebo +MTX 20mg/week GLM* 100mg + Placebo GLM* 50mg- 100MG + MTX *GLM administered every 4 weeks	PNEUMONIA: 1 TB: 0 INJECTION SITE RXN: 3 (1.9) LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 2 DEMYELINAGING: NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 2 (1.3) SERIOUS INFECTION: 3 (1.9) PNEUMONIA: 1 TB: 0 INJECTION SITE RXN: 17 (10.8) LYMPHOMA: 1 MALIGNANCY:2 DEMYELINAGING: NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 14 (3) SERIOUS INFECTION: 2 (1.3) PNEUMONIA: 2 TB: 1 INJECTION SITE RXN: 17 (5.4) LYMPHOMA: 1 MALIGNANCY:2 = DEMYELINATING: NR DEATH: 2 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 13 (4.1) SERIOUS INFECTION: 9(2.85)	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes: Subjects/ ?Invest/ Assessors N Safety Placebo + MTX: 160/160; N Safety GLM + Placebo: 157/157; N Safety GLM + MTX: 317/317	3 arms; Placebo +MTX 20mg/week; GLM + Placebo vs GLM + MTX; similar adverse event rates; may be underpowered to show differences.
8.	Maini 1999 Months:~7 N:428 Age: ~54 Duration: ~10 yrs Incomplete responders	Placebo + MTX	PNEUMONIA: NR TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: 0 LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 0 DEMYELINAGING: NR	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes:	Similar adverse event rates; may be underpowered to show differences.

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
	% on NSAIDs: ~NR HAQ score:~1.6	ADA 40mg sc. 2 weekly+MTX ADA80mg sc. 2 weekly+MTX	REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 0 PNEUMONIA: 2 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 5 SERIOUS INFECTION:2 (Pneumonia) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 12(5.7)	N Safety ADA + MTX: 209/209	
12.	Keystone 2008(RAPID1) Months:12 N:982 Age: ~52 Duration: ~6 years Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: NR % on NSAIDs: NR HAQ score:~1.7	Placebo + MTX; N=199 CZP 200mg to 400mg 2 weekly sc. +MTX; N=783	PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (3.3) SERIOUS INFECTION: (2.2) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 0 PNEUMONIA: NR TB (:0.85) INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:11 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 7 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (6.3) SERIOUS INFECTION:(6.3) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:(1.6)	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes for assessor; No other details N Safety Placebo + MTX: 190/199 N Safety CZP + MTX: 781/783	Increased serious infection, malignancy and withdrawal due to adverse events in CZP group. P-values not reported
13.	Smolen EULAR 2007(RAPID2) Months:6 N:619 Age: ~52 Duration: ~6 years Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: 59 % on NSAIDs: NR HAQ score:1.6	Placebo + MTX; N=127 CZP 200mg 2 weekly sc. + placebo; N=246 CZP 400mg 2 weekly sc. + placebo; N=246	PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 2 (1.6) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 0 PNEUMONIA: NR TB:5 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:11 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 2 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 15(3.45) SERIOUS INFECTION:14 (2.2) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:8 (1.6)	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: No details N Safety Placebo + MTX: 125/127 N Safety CZP + MTX: 492/492	Increased rate of serious infections in CZP group; may be underpowered to show differences.

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#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
14.	Keystone EULAR 2009 (GO-FORWARD) Months:6 N:444 Age: ~52 Duration: ~6.2 years Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: 65/68/73 % on NSAIDs: NR HAQ score:1.4	<p>Placebo + MTX; N=133</p> <p>GLM 100mg 2 weekly sc. + placebo; N=133</p> <p>GLM 50-100mg. + MTX; N=178</p>	<p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY: 1 basal cell skin; 1 squamous cell skin DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 6 SERIOUS INFECTION: 1 (0.7%): UTI REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 0</p> <p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:(0.85) INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:1 squamous cell skin DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 7 SERIOUS INFECTION: 4 (3%): 2 sepsis, 1 colitis, infective arthritis REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE (1.05)</p> <p>PNEUMONIA, LOWER RTI: 1 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:1 breast cancer DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 7 SERIOUS INFECTION: 7 (3.9%): cellulitis ,2 sepsis, UTI, bacterial arthritis, lower RTI, SC abscess REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE 1) (1.1%)</p>	<p>Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Assessors N Safety Placebo + MTX: 133/133 N Safety GLM + Placebo: 133/133 N Safety GLM + MTX: 178/178</p>	<p>Increased rate serious infections with GLM; may be underpowered to show significant differences.</p>
15.	Moreland 1999 Months:6 N:234 Age: ~52 Duration: ~11.5 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: 58 vs 81 % on NSAIDs: 84 vs 67 HAQ score:1.7	<p>Placebo; N=80</p> <p>ETN 10 or 25mg sc. twice weekly + placebo; N=154</p>	<p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:NR INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:NR DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: NR WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 3 SERIOUS INFECTION: NR REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: (13%)</p> <p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:(0.85) INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:NR DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 7 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 7 SERIOUS INFECTION: NR REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: (46.5%)</p>	<p>Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: No details except similar appearance and constitution of placebo injection from placebo powder. Assessors N Safety Placebo: 80/80 N Safety ETN:154 /154</p>	<p>Increased reactions at injection site 46.5% vs 13%, no P-value.</p>

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#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
16.	Klareskog 2004 (TEMPO) Months:24 N:682 Age: ~53 Duration: ~7 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: ~60 % on NSAIDs:~ 87 HAQ score:1.8	MTX; N=228 ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly; N=223 ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly + MTX; N=231	PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 32 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10 (4%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 4 (2%) PNEUMONIA: 0 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:4 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 25 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10 (4%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:46 (21%) PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH:1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 24 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10 (4%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 23 (10%)	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: Centralized telephone Blinding: Stated double-blind; no details N Safety MTX: 228/228 N Safety ETN:223/223 N Safety ETN +MTX: 231/231	MTX vs ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly; increased reaction at injection site, no P-value provided
17.	Combe 2006 Months:6 N:260 Age: ~52 Duration: ~7 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: 40/59/49 % on NSAIDs:NR HAQ score:1.6	Placebo + SSZ; N=50 ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly +placebo; N=103 ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly + SSZ; N=101	PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (6%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 1 (2%) PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:2 MALIGNANCY:2 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (6%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 3 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:33 (32%) PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:NR	Generation Sequence: Centraized telephone Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Stated double-blind; no details N Safety Placebo + SSZ: 50/50 N Safety ETN+ Placebo:103/103 N Safety ETN +SSZ: 101/101	3 arms: Placebo + SSZ vs ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly +placebo vs ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly + SSZ; Increased reactions at injection site in ETN groups, 15.8% (ETN +SSZ) vs 32% (ETN + placebo) vs 2% (placebo). No P-values provided.

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#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
			DEATH:0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (1%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 16 (15.8%)		
18.	Combe 2009 Months:2 years N:154 Age: ~52 Duration: ~7 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: 40/59/49 % on NSAIDs:NR HAQ score:1.6	<p>Placebo + SSZ; N=50</p> <p>ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly +placebo; N=103</p> <p>ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly + SSZ; N=101</p>	<p>PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (8%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 2 (4%)</p> <p>PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:2 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (19%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 11 (10.7%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:34 (33%)</p> <p>PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH:0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (10%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 5 (5%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 21 (20.8%)</p>	<p>Generation Sequence: Centraized telephone Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Stated double-blind; no details N Safety Placebo + SSZ: 50/50 N Safety ETN+ Placebo:103/103 N Safety ETN +SSZ: 101/101</p>	<p>Increased serious infections, 10% (ETN + placebo), 5% (ETN + SSZ), 0 with placebo and reactions at injection site with ETN, 33% and ETN plus sulfasalazine, 20.8% vs 4% placebo group; increased rate of withdrawal due to adverse events in ETN group, 19% vs 10% and 8%; no P-values provided.</p>

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#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per patient year)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
19.	van de Putte 2004 Months:6 N:544 Age: ~53 Duration: ~11.5 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: 67/68/82 % on NSAIDs:84/82/77 HAQ score:1.9	Placebo; N=110 ADA 20-40mg sc. 2 weekly or weekly; N=434	PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:1 (0.9%) DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 4 SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:1 (0.9%) PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:4 (0.9%) DEMYELINATING:NR DEATH: 3 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 16 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10/434 (2.3%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:46 (10.6%)	Generation Sequence: Computer generated Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Stated double-blind; identical packaging N Safety Placebo: 106/110 N Safety ADA: 434/434	Placebo vs ADA 20-40mg sc. 2 weekly or weekly; increased reactions at injection site with ADA, 10.6% vs 0.9%; increased rate of withdrawal due to adverse events in the ADA group, 16 vs 4 subjects; no P-values provided.
20.	Fleischmann 09 Months:6 N:220 Age: ~54 Duration: ~9.5 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: 59/56 % on NSAIDs:NR HAQ score:1.6/1.4	Placebo + MTX; N=109 CZP 400mg 4 weekly;N-111	PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:0 INATING:0 DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 2 (1.8%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 0 OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTION:0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: NR PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 LYMPHOMA:0 MALIGNANCY:0 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 0 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 5 (4.5%) SERIOUS INFECTION: 2 (4 cases per 100 pt years) OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTION:0 REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:4.5%	Generation Sequence: Interactive voice Concealment Alloc: Unblinded pharmacists;blinded study personnel; Blinding: Stated double-blind; no details about patients or assessors N Safety Placebo + MTX; N=109/109 N Safety CZP;N-111/111	Increased reactions at injection site with CZP, 4.5% vs 0; increased rate of withdrawal due to adverse events in CZP group, 4.5% vs 1.8%; no P-values provided.

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SAFETY DATA FROM OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

Nam Table 9. Standardized mortality rates and relative risks of all cause mortality in patients on Biological DMARDs

Author	Biological DMARD	Patient Nos	Comparison	All Cause SMR/RR	Reviewer Comments
Watson ACR 2007 UK registry:	TNF inhibitors (Adalimumab, Etanercept, Infliximab)	9849	General population	SMR Male=2 (95% CI 1.7 to 2.3) SMR Female =1.7 (95% CI 1.5 to 1.9)	Abstract; no document filed in NLM
Jacobsson EULAR 2008 (ARTIS registry)	TNF inhibitors	6403	General population TNF naive RA patients	SMR 1.57 (95% CI 1.42 to 1.73) (RR =0.85 [95% CI 0.77 to 0.95] compared to TNF naive)	Not filed in NLM; RR not significantly increased compared to TNF naive RA patients

Nam Table 10. Standardized mortality rates and relative risks of mortality related to specific organ systems in patients on Biological DMARDs

Author	Biological DMARD	Patient Nos	Comparison	Neoplasms SMR	Cardiovascular SMR	Respiratory SMR	Musculo-skeletal SMR	Reviewer Comments
Watson ACR 2007 UK registry	TNF inhibitors (Adalimumab, Etanercept, Infliximab)	9849	General population	Male=0.96 (95% CI 0.62 to 1.41) Female =0.79 (95% CI 0.59 to 1.04)	Male=1.77 (95% CI 1.32 to 2.32) Female =1.26 (95% CI 1.01 to 1.54)	Male=3.33 (95% CI 2.18 to 4.88) Female =2.15 (95% CI 1.55 to 2.9)	Male=66.8 (95% CI 42.8 to 99.4) Female =30.6 (95% CI 22.7 to 40.4)	Abstract; not compared to TNF naive RA patients

SERIOUS INFECTIONS

Nam Table 11. Standardized incidence rates and relative risks of infections in patients on Biological DMARDs

Author	Biological DMARD (n=number of patients)	Comparator group	Serious infections IRR	Reviewer Comments
Curtis EULAR 2007 (US Health Care)	IFX+ADA (n=937) ETN (n=1201)	Methotrexate (n=2933)	2.4(95% CI 1.4 to 5.2)\$ 0.7(95% CI 0.3 to 1.7)** 1.2(95% CI 0.5 to 2.5)\$ 0.8(95% CI 0.5 to 1.5)**	IFX +ADA compared to MTX assoc. with increased rate serious infection only in first 6 mos; ETN not assoc. with increased infection

\$ Within 6 month of treatment start

** After 6 months of treatment start

TUBERCULOSIS

Nam Table 12. Standardised incidence rates and relative risks of tuberculosis in patients on Biological DMARDs

Author	Comparator groups	Incidence per 100 000/yr	RR	Reviewer Comments
Gomez-Reino 2003 Spanish Registry	General population RA non biologic RA IFX	21 (in 2000) 95 1893 (in 2000) 1113 (in 2001)	1 4.13 (95% CI 2.59 to 6.83)* 53 (95% CI 35.4 to 89) (in 2001)* 11.7 (95% CI 9.5 to 14.6) (in 2001)**	IFX in RA patients associated with increased risk TB 17/1578 compared with subjects treated with ETA 0/1540
Seong 2007 (Korean registry)	General population RA non TNF RA IFX RA ETN	67.2 257 2558 0	1 8.9 (95% CI 4.60 to 17.2) 30.1 (95% CI 7.40 to 122.3)	IFX in RA patients associated with approximately 3.4 times higher risk of TB than RA patients not taking TNF; no increased risk found with ETN.
Gomez-Reino 2007 (Spanish registry)	RA IFX 5 RA ETN RA ADA	383 (95% CI 159 to 921) 114 (95% CI 28 to 459) 176 (95% CI 24 to 1245)		Cases/subjects (time to develop) IFX: 5/1303 (1.2-8.7 mos) ETN: 2/1740 (<2.5 mos) ADA: 1/565 (14 mos) Evaluated \ new cases of active tuberculosis (ATB) after

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Author	Comparator groups	Incidence per 100 000/yr	RR	Reviewer Comments
				March 2002 in patients treated with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists included in the national registry BIOBADASER (Base de Datos de Productos Biológicos de la Sociedad Española de Reumatología) after the dissemination of recommendations to prevent reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).
Dixon ACR 2008, 2010 (UK registry)	RA DMARD RA TNF RA IFX RA ETN RA ADA	0 111 (95% CI 77 to 154)* 131 (95% CI 68 to 228) 50 (95% CI 20 to 103) 196 (95% CI 112 to 319)	IRR 2.8 (95% CI 1.2 to 7.1) Referent 2.8 (95% CI 1.6 to 9.1)	Drug-specific data indicate risk of TB is 2.8 times higher with IFX and ADA as compared to ETN: data from abstract. Updated in 2010. Dixon 2010 update: in the anti-TNF cohort. The rate of TB was higher for the monoclonal antibodies INF (136/100 000 person-years; N=11/3718) ETN (39/100 000 person-years; N=5/5521) ADA 144 (72 to 258); N=11/7634. After adjustment, the incidence rate ratio compared with ETN-treated patients was 3.1 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.5) for INF and 4.2 (1.4 to 12.4) for ADA. The median time to event was lowest for INF (5.5 months) compared with ETA (13.4 months) and ADA (18.5 months). Patients of non-white ethnicity had a sixfold increased risk of TB compared with white patients treated with anti-TNF therapy.
Tubach EULAR 2009	General population TNF (RA; PsA; Crohn's, TA, Behcet's) IFX/ADA ETN	8.7** 39.2 71.5 6.00	OR from case control study Infliximab 13.29 (95% CI 2.56 to 69.04) Adalimumab 17.08 (95% CI 3.62 to 80.59) Etanercept 1 The standardized incidence ratio (SIR) was higher for therapy with infliximab and adalimumab than for therapy with etanercept (SIR 18.6 [95% CI 13.4 to 25.8] and SIR 29.3 [95% CI 20.3 to 42.4] versus SIR 1.8 [95% CI 0.7 to 4.3], respectively).	ORs from case control study over 3 years: TB risk in 68 TB patients and 136 control subjects receiving anti-TNF therapy, by multivariate analysis TB risk is 11.8 times higher with IFX or ADA compared to ETA.

*per 100 000 pt years; 88 per 100 000pt/yr; **March 2002 to Jan 2006

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

MALIGNANCY

Nam Table 13. Standardised incidence rates and relative risks of malignancy in patients on biological DMARDs

Author	Comparison	Patient Nos	All Ca SIR/HR/OR/RR	Haem Ca SIR/HR	Solid Ca SIR/HR	Reviewer Comments
Geborek 2005 (SSATG registry)	RA non-TNF RA-TNF	800 757	1.4 (95% CI 1.1 to 1.8) 1.1 (95% CI 0.6 to 1.8)	1.1 95% CI (0 to 1.4) 0 (95% CI 0 to 9.2)		Suggestive of no increased risk with TNFi agents
Askling 2005 (Swedish Register)	In-patient RA ERA non-TNF RA-TNF	53067 3703 4160		1.7 (95% CI 1.5 to 1.8) 1.6 (95% CI 0.9 to 2.6) 2.1 (95% CI 1.1 to 3.8)		
Askling 2005 (Swedish Register)	In-patient RA ERA non-TNF RA-TNF	53067 3703 4160			1.05 (95% CI 1.01 to 1.08) 1.1 (95% CI 0.9 to 1.3) 0.9 95% CI (0.7 to 1.2)	
Wolfe 2007	All RA RA biologics IFX ETN ADA ANA	12916 6282	OR: 1 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.2) 1 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3) 1 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3) 0.7 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6) 0.8 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.8)			Incident cases 1998-2005 compared to SEER adjusted data: - Combined biologics: No increased risk with biologics for solid tumors or lymphoproliferative disorders; Increased risk for skin cancer; (OR 1.5, 95% CI 1.2 to 1.8) for combined biologics; melanoma (OR 2.3, 95% CI 0.9 to 5.4); - Individual agents compared to SEER -IFX 161/4,430 OR 1.7 (1.3 to 2.2); - ETN 126/3,163 OR 1.2 (1.0 to 1.5); ADA 10/812 OR 0.9 (0.5 to 1.8). Non-significant findings may be due to type II error.
Askling EULAR 2007 (Swedish register)	General Pop RA non TNF RA TNF	470311 67094 5401	RR of TNF compared to non-biologics 1.07 (95% CI 0.74 to 1.29)* 1.09 (95% CI 1.06,1.24)**			TNF compared to non-biologics: increased risk.
Askling EULAR 2008 (Swedish register)	RA no TNF RA TNF	66995 6403	RR: 0.94 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.12)			TNF population compared to RA patients without TNF: No increased

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

Author	Comparison	Patient Nos	All Ca SIR/HR/OR/RR	Haem Ca SIR/HR	Solid Ca SIR/HR	Reviewer Comments
						risk. Type II error possible.
Burmester EULAR 2008	NCI SEER RA ADA	3421	0.89 (95% CI 0.68 to 1.13)			No increased risk with ADA compared to SEER data. Type II error possible.
Klareskog EULAR 2008	SEER RA ETN	2054	0.98 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.12)			No increased risk with ETN compared to SEER data. Type II error possible.
Abasolo ACR 2008 (Spanish register)	RA no TNF RA TNF	789 4529	<i>IRR (adjusted): 0.92 (95% CI 0.41 to 2.04)**</i>			TNFi population compared to RA patients with non-biologics: No increased risk. Type II error possible.
Dixon ACR 2008 (UK register)	RA DMARDs RA TNF	118\$ 177\$	<i>RR (adjusted): 0.53 (95% CI 0.22 to 1.26)</i>			TNFi population compared to RA patients with non-biologics: No increased risk. Type II error possible.
Strangfeld ACR 2008 (German register)	RA conventional DMARDs RA Biologics	1836 3445			incidence rate: 5.8/1000	

- * compared to general population
- ** compared to RA non-biologic treated group
- \$ patients with prior malignancies
- #excludes non-melanoma skin)

SUMMARY MALIGNANCY IFX, ADA, ETN-REGISTRY STUDIES RA

Reference	Agents and Population (N)	Outcomes [^]
Burmester 08	ADA in RA versus general population [SEER data used to estimate risk in general population] (3421)	ADA: SIR 0.89 (95% CI 0.69 to 1.13)
Klareskog 08	ETN versus general population (SEER data) (2054)	ETN: SIR 0.98 (95% CI 0.69 to 1.12)
Wolfe 07	IFX, ADA, ETN versus general population (SEER data) (13,001)	IFX: OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3) ADA: OR 0.7 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6) ETN: OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3)

[^]SIR: standardized incidence rate with US population used as comparator; OR: odds ratio

Systematic Safety Review of Five Biologic Antirheumatic Drugs

LYMPHOMA

Nam Table 14 Standardised incidence rates (SIR), relative risks (RR), hazard ratios (HR) and odds ratios (OR) of lymphoma in patients receiving biological DMARDs

Author	Comparison	Patient Nos	SIR (95% CI)	RR/HR/OR (95% CI)	Reviewer Comments
Wolfe 2004	All RA RA-MTX RA biologics IFX ETN ANA	18572 5501 8614 5233 2149 58	1.9 (1.3 to 2.7) 1.7 (0.9 to 3.2) 2.9 (1.7 to 4.9) 2.2 (1.0 to 4.9) 3.5 (2.5 to 8.4) 0		Increased rates with RA; some registry data show increased rates with TNFi; some show no increased rates with TNFi compared to nonbiological DMARDs.
Geborek 2005 (SSATG registry)	RA non-TNF RA-TNF	800 757	1.3 (0.2 to 4.5) 11.5 (3.7 to 26.9)		
Asklung 2005 (Swedish Register)	In-patient RA ERA non-TNF RA-TNF	53067 3703 4160	1.9 (1.7 to 2.1) 2.0 (1.0 to 3.5) 2.9 (1.3 to 5.5)	**RR 1.1 (0.6 to 2.1)	TNFi population compared to RA patients with non-biologics: No increased risk. Type II error possible.
Setoguchi 2006	All RA RA-MTX RA-Biological DMARD	7830 7306 1152		HR [^] 1.11 (0.51 to 2.37)	TNFi population compared to RA patients with non-biologics: No increased risk. Type II error possible.
Wolfe 2007	RA patients RA TNF RA MTX RA IFX RA ETN RA ADA	19591 10815		OR 1.0** (0.6 to 1.8) 1.3*** (0.7 to 2.4) 1.2*** (0.6 to 2.2) 0.7*** (0.3 to 1.6) 4.5*** (0.9 to 23.1) (only 56 cases; 2 lymphoma)	Increased rates not statistically significant for any agent. Type II error possible.
Asklung EULAR 2007 (Swedish register)	General population RA non TNF RA TNF	6304		RR 2.08(1.6 to 3.43)* 0.95 (0.5 to 1.67)**	Increased rates not statistically significant for TNFi compared to RA patients not taking TNFi. Type II error possible.
Callegari EULAR 2007 (US register)	General population (SEER) RA nonTNF RA TNF		1.76 (0.57 to 4.11) 2.08 (0.76 to 4.53)		Increased rates not statistically significant compared to SEER data for general population. Type II error possible.
Burmester EULAR 2008	NCI SEER RA ADA	3421	3.81 (1.90 to 6.81)		Increased rate compared to SEER data.
Klareskog EULAR 2008	General population (SEER)RA ETN	2054	3.53 (1.82 to 6.16)		Increased rate compared to SEER data.
Mariette ACR 2008 (French register)	General Population Total TNF RA IFX or ADA RA ETN		2.11 (1.48 to 3.00)# 4.87 (2.33 to 10.24)## 3.43 (2.4 to 5.04)# 6.86 (2.86 to 16.48)## 0.69 (0.28 to 1.65)# 2.78 (0.7 to 11.13)##		Not in NLM; suggestive of differential effect-higher risk with IFX or ADA compared to general population and non-biological DMARD group.
Smitten ACR 2008	General population (SEER) RA non Biological DMARDs RA ABAT	41529 4150	1.61* 0.43 to 0.88**		
Weinblatt ACR 2008	General population (SEER) RA ETN		4.2 (1.7 to 51)		Suggests increased risk with ETN compared to general population.

- * compared to general population
- ** compared to RA nonbiologic treated group
- *** compared to all other malignancies
- [^]compared to methotrexate
- § patients with prior malignance
- # non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- ##Hodgkin's lymphoma

4.4 INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Nam Table 15 Risks and standardized mortality rates of interstitial lung disease in patients on Biological DMARDs

Author	Comparator groups	Hazards ratio	Reviewer Comments
Wolfe 2007[106]	Prednisolone Methotrexate IFX ETN	2.5 (95% CI 1.5 to 4.1) 1.2 (95% CI 0.7 to 1.9) 0.7 (95% CI 0.4 to 1.3) 0.9 (95% CI 0.4 to 1.7)	Neither IFX nor ETN reported to have statistically significantly increased risk of interstitial lung disease; referent unclear. Type II error possible.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

POULIN 09 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Poulin 09

Citation: Poulin Y, Langley RG, Teixeira HD, Martel MJ, Cheung S. Biologics in the treatment of psoriasis: clinical and economic overview. J Cutan Med Surg. 2009 Sep-Oct;13 Suppl 2:S49-57. Review. PubMed PMID: 19799827.

Study Design: Review Psoriasis

Manufacture Involvement: No

Abstract: Not included

Psoriasis

Reference	Reviewer Comments	Relevant Safety Findings				
		Study	Severe Infection	Serious AE (%)	Serious Infusion Reactions or Adverse events associated with Infusion	Other
Poulin 09 REVIEW USED ONLY AS SOURCE FOR RCTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heterogeneity in study designs, populations, duration, agents studied <p>Summary of ranges in 4 trials (exclude Chaudhari 01)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEVERE INFECTIONS IFX:0.5% SERIOUS AEs IFX:1.9% to 8.9% 	Chaudhari 01, RCT, N=31 (exclude)	NR	NR	0	
		Gottlieb 04 RCT reported safety outcomes through week 30; N=51 placebo, 197 combined IFX group	placebo: 0 IFX: 0.5%	placebo: 0 IFX: 6.1%	6.6% IFX, 0.3% rated as serious	
		Reich 05, N=378, cross-over week 24, safety outcomes through week 24	NR	placebo: 3% IFX: 6%	placebo: 2% IFX:3%	Malignancies placebo: 0 IFX: 1%
		Menter 06, N=835, 50 wk safety data 627 IFX patients	NR	placebo: 5 (2.4%) IFX: 5 (1.9%)	placebo: 12 (5.8%) IFX: 81 (4.35%)	Malignancy: placebo: 0 induction phase IFX: 12 (1.9%) TB: placebo: 0 IFX: 2 (0.32%)
		Antoni 08, N=78		7/78, 8.9% Reported in IFX group only	4/78, 5.1% IFX Reported in IFX group only	

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

REICH 05_SCHMITT 08_UHLENHAKE 10

AUTHORS YR: Reich 05, Uhlenhake 10, Schmitt 08

Citations:

Reich K, Nestle FO, Papp K, Ortonne JP, Evans R, Guzzo C, Li S, Dooley LT, Griffiths CE; EXPRESS study investigators. Infliximab induction and maintenance therapy for moderate-to-severe psoriasis: a phase III, multicentre, double-blind trial. *Lancet*. 2005 Oct 15-21;366(9494):1367-74. PubMed PMID: 16226614.

Schmitt J, Zhang Z, Wozel G, Meurer M, Kirch W. Efficacy and tolerability of biologic and nonbiologic systemic treatments for moderate-to-severe psoriasis: meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Br J Dermatol*. 2008 Sep;159(3):513-26. Epub 2008 Jul 9. Review. PubMed PMID: 18627372.

Uhlenhake EE, Feldman SR. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab and etanercept for the treatment of psoriasis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 Jul;10(7):1105-12. Review. PubMed PMID: 20446825.

Study Designs:

Reich 05: RCT

Uhlenhake 10: Systematic Review

Schmitt 08: Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement:

Reich 05: Centocor staff participated in study design, data analysis and manuscript writing.

Uhlenhake 10: Appears to be funded by grant from Galderma Laboratories

Schmitt 08: none

Abstract: Not included

Reference	Reviewer Comments	Serious AE (%)	Serious Infusion Reactions or Adverse events associated with Infusion	Other																															
Reich 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, 24 week crossover study 	placebo: 3% IFX: 6%	placebo: 2% IFX:3%	Malignancies placebo: 0 IFX: 1%																															
Uhlenhake 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic review with focus on UST and ETN 	Reviewer Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative review N not provided Reviewed RCTs and observational studies published in past 20 years. No evidence of increased serious infections with ETN or UST compared to placebo. 																																	
Schmitt 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta-analysis ADA, IFX and ETN trials Assessed withdrawals Newer meta-analysis of 5 trials, observational studies and case reports(Schmitt 09) reported serious AEs in ADA studies: range 0.5% to 1.9%. 	Withdrawals for any reason <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Biologic</th> <th># Trials</th> <th># Pts</th> <th>Weighted By Number Participants Mean Average Incidence Rate (Range) Monthly Withdrawal Rate Due To Any Reason (%)</th> <th>Monthly Withdrawals Due To Any Adverse Events (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ADA</td> <td>1</td> <td>814</td> <td>2.9%</td> <td>16.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ETN 2 X 25 mg weekly</td> <td>2</td> <td>253</td> <td rowspan="2">1.3% (95% CI 1.0 to 2.5)</td> <td rowspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>415</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ETN 2 X 50 mg weekly</td> <td>2</td> <td>505</td> <td rowspan="2">0.6% (0.6 to 0.8)</td> <td rowspan="2">17.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>311</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IFX 5mg / kg</td> <td>3</td> <td>711</td> <td>2.5% (1.8 to 3.0)</td> <td>17.8% (95 CI 12.1 to 22.5)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Biologic	# Trials	# Pts	Weighted By Number Participants Mean Average Incidence Rate (Range) Monthly Withdrawal Rate Due To Any Reason (%)	Monthly Withdrawals Due To Any Adverse Events (%)	ADA	1	814	2.9%	16.6%	ETN 2 X 25 mg weekly	2	253	1.3% (95% CI 1.0 to 2.5)			3	415	ETN 2 X 50 mg weekly	2	505	0.6% (0.6 to 0.8)	17.6%		1	311	IFX 5mg / kg	3	711	2.5% (1.8 to 3.0)	17.8% (95 CI 12.1 to 22.5)
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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

SAAD 08_ MEASE 09_ STERRY 10_ GOTTLIEB 09

Citations:

Saad AA, Ashcroft DM, Watson KD, Hyrich KL, Noyce PR, Symmons DP; British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Persistence with anti-tumour necrosis factor therapies in patients with psoriatic arthritis: observational study from the British Society of Rheumatology Biologics Register. *Arthritis Res Ther.* 2009;11(2):R52. Epub 2009 Apr 8. PubMed PMID: 19356232.

Mease PJ, Ory P, Sharp JT, Ritchlin CT, Van den Bosch F, Wellborne F, Birbara C, Thomson GT, Perdok RJ, Medich J, Wong RL, Gladman DD. Adalimumab for long-term treatment of psoriatic arthritis: 2-year data from the Adalimumab Effectiveness in Psoriatic Arthritis Trial (ADEPT). *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 May;68(5):702-9. Epub 2008 Aug 6. PubMed PMID: 18684743; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2663711.

Sterry W, Ortonne JP, Kirkham B, Brocq O, Robertson D, Pedersen RD, Estojak J, Molta CT, Freundlich B. Comparison of two etanercept regimens for treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: PRESTA randomised double blind multicentre trial. *BMJ.* 2010 Feb 2;340:c147. doi: 10.1136/bmj.c147. PubMed PMID: 20124563.

Gottlieb A, Menter A, Mendelsohn A, Shen YK, Li S, Guzzo C, Fretzin S, Kunyetz R, Kavanaugh A. Ustekinumab, a human interleukin 12/23 monoclonal antibody, for psoriatic arthritis: randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover trial. *Lancet.* 2009 Feb 21;373(9664):633-40. Epub 2009 Feb 11. Erratum in: *Lancet.* 2009 Apr 18;373(9672):1340. PubMed PMID: 19217154.

Study Designs:

Saad 08: Registry

Mease 09: Follow-up data from RCT

Sterry 08: RCT

Gottlieb 09: RCT

Manufacture Involvement:

Reich 05: Centocor staff participated in study design, data analysis and manuscript writing.

Uhlenhake 10: Appears to be funded by grant from Galderma Laboratories

Schmitt 08: none

Gottlieb 09: Centocor staff participated in study design, data analysis and manuscript writing. 4 authors were employed by Centocor

Abstracts: not included

PsA

Reference	Reviewer Comments	Results	
Saad 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta-analysis; included 6 RCTs, N=982, ADA, ETN, IFX Similar withdrawal rates to placebo Underpowered to detect differences 	Relative Risks Compared To Placebo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdrawal for any reason: 5 trials; compared to placebo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR compared to placebo: ADA: 0.83 (95% CI 0.39 to 1.74) RR ETN: 0.24 (0.12 to 0.49) RR IFX: 1.50 (0.26 to 8.61) Withdrawal due to AE: 5 trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR compared to placebo: ADA: 1.98 (0.35 to 11.28) RR ETN: 1.03 (0.07 to 16.24) RR IFX: 2.90 (0.60 to 13.96) Serious AE: 5 TRIALS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR ADA: 0.70 (0.25 to 1.94) RR ETN: 0.86 (0.25 to 3.01) RR IFX: 1.35 (0.56 to 3.27) Injection site reactions: 4 trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR ADA 1.44 (0.65 to 3.17) RR ETN 4.27 (2.25 to 8.13) Infusion reactions: IFX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR 1.03 (0.48 to 2.20) 	
Mease 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCT (24 wk) open label extension (2 year), N=298 Patients with PsA who completed a 24-week, double- 	N/162 (%) Placebo group 24 Weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe AE: 11 (6.8) AE leading to discontinuation: 5 (3.1) Serious infections: 1(0.6) Lymphoma: 0 Non-melanoma skin cancers: 0 Other malignancies: 0 Injection site reactions: 5 (3.1) 	N/151 (%) ADA group 24 Weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe AE: 5 (5.3) AE leading to discontinuation: 6(4.0) Serious infections: 1 (0.7) Lymphoma: 0 Non-melanoma skin cancers: 0 Other malignancies: 0 Injection site reactions: 10 (6.6)

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	<p>blind study of ADA versus placebo were eligible to enroll in an open-label extension study and receive adalimumab 40 mg subcutaneously every other week for up to an additional 120 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supersedes reports at 24 and 48 weeks by same authors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-TB opportunistic infections: 0 TB: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/298 (%) ADA group Up To 2 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe AE: 54 (18.1) AE leading to discontinuation: 20 (6.7) Serious infections: 15 (5.0) Lymphoma: 1 (0.3) Non-melanoma skin cancers: 2 (0.7) Other malignancies: 1 (0.3) Injection site reactions: 43 (14.4) Non-TB opportunistic infections: 4 (1.3) TB: 1 (0.3) Heart failure: 0 Death: 3 (1.0) Throughout 2 years of adalimumab exposure, one patient had peritoneal tuberculosis and four patients experienced opportunistic infections (oral candidiasis). One patient had nonHodgkin’s B-cell lymphoma, two patients had basal cell carcinoma and one patient had neuroendocrine carcinoma of the skin. There were no reports of central nervous system demyelinating disease, lupus-like syndrome, congestive heart failure, or adalimumab-related allergic reactions Three deaths occurred among the 298 patients. One patient experienced cardiopulmonary arrest and myocardial infarction. Another patient experienced sudden death that was attributed to acute pulmonary edema. The third death was caused by myocardial infarction 104 days after the last dose of adalimumab. 																																
Gottlieb 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crossover RCT; N=146 UST Carryover effect likely All patients received UST 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 36 weeks serious infections were less than 1% Serious AEs 4.8%, 7/146 Discontinued because of AEs 11/146, 7.5% Injection site reactions 8/146, 5.5% 																																	
Sterry 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCT Patients with psoriasis and PsA ETN 50mg once (N=373) versus twice weekly (N=379) 12 week double blind then 12 week open label 98 settings Europe, Asia Pacific, SA 	<p>Safety Summary (percentages)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="526 1199 1484 1614"> <thead> <tr> <th>AE</th> <th>50mg BIW Weely</th> <th>50 mg QW (weekly)</th> <th>Total</th> <th>P-Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Any adverse event</td> <td>213 (56.2)</td> <td>190 (50.9)</td> <td>403 (53.6)</td> <td>0.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serious adverse events</td> <td>15 (4.0)</td> <td>11 (2.9)</td> <td>26 (3.5)</td> <td>0.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Death</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malignancy</td> <td>3 (0.8)</td> <td>1 (0.3)</td> <td>4 (0.5)</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serious infections</td> <td>2 (0.5)</td> <td>3 (0.8)</td> <td>5 (0.7)</td> <td>0.68</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				AE	50mg BIW Weely	50 mg QW (weekly)	Total	P-Value	Any adverse event	213 (56.2)	190 (50.9)	403 (53.6)	0.16	Serious adverse events	15 (4.0)	11 (2.9)	26 (3.5)	0.55	Death	0	0	0		Malignancy	3 (0.8)	1 (0.3)	4 (0.5)	-	Serious infections	2 (0.5)	3 (0.8)	5 (0.7)	0.68
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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

SALMON-CERON OPPORTUNISTIC FRENCH REGISTRY 10 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Salmon-Ceron 10

Citation: Salmon-Ceron D, Tubach F, Lortholary O, Chosidow O, Bretagne S, Nicolas N, Cuillerier E, Fautrel B, Michelet C, Morel J, Puéchal X, Wendling D, Lemann M, Ravaud P, Mariette X; for the RATIO group. Drug-specific risk of non-tuberculosis opportunistic infections in patients receiving anti-TNF therapy reported to the 3-year prospective French RATIO registry. Ann Rheum Dis. 2010 Dec 21. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 21177290.

RATIO: (Research Axed on Tolerance of biOtherapies)

Study Type: Incidence and Case-Control Study French RATIO Registry

Manufacture Involvement: Authors have received consultancy fees from relevant manufacturers which had no role in the study. RATIO was supported by a research grant from INSERM (Réseau recherche clinique 2003 and 2006) and by an unrestricted grant from Abbott, Schering Plough and Wyeth. The pharmaceutical companies Abbott, Schering Plough and Wyeth had no role in the study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation or writing of the report.

Abstract

Background

Anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy may be associated with opportunistic infections (OIs). Objective To describe the spectrum of non-tuberculosis OIs associated with anti-TNF therapy and identify their risk factors.

Methods

A 3-year national French registry (RATIO) collected all cases of OI in patients receiving anti-TNF treatment for any indication in France. A case-control study was performed with three controls treated with anti-TNF agents per case, matched for gender and underlying inflammatory disease.

Results

45 cases were collected of non-TB OIs in 43 patients receiving infliximab (n=29), adalimumab (n=10) or etanercept (n=4) for rheumatoid arthritis (n=26), spondyloarthritis (n=3), inflammatory colitis (n=8), psoriasis (n=1) or other conditions (n=5). One-third (33%) of OIs were bacterial (4 listeriosis, 4 nocardiosis, 4 atypical mycobacteriosis, 3 non-typhoid salmonellosis), 40% were viral (8 severe herpes zoster, 3 varicella, 3 extensive herpes simplex, 4 disseminated cytomegalovirus infections), 22% were fungal (5 pneumocystosis, 3 invasive aspergillosis, 2 cryptococcosis) and 4% were parasitic (2 leishmaniasis). Ten patients (23%) required admission to the intensive care unit, and four patients (9%) died. Risk factors for OIs were treatment with infliximab (OR=17.6 (95% CI 4.3 - 72.9); p<0.0001) or adalimumab (OR=10.0 (2.3 to 44.4); p=0.002) versus etanercept, and oral steroid use >10 mg/day or intravenous boluses during the previous year (OR=6.3 (2.0 to 20.0); p=0.002).

Conclusion

Various and severe OIs, especially those with intracellular micro-organisms, may develop in patients receiving anti-TNF treatment. Monoclonal anti-TNF antibody rather than soluble TNF receptor therapy and steroid use >10 mg/day are independently associated with OI.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, , infliximab in any indication
- Registry described as prospective.
- The French RATIO registry was designed by a multidisciplinary expert group to prospectively collect all cases of OI occurring from 1 February 2004 to 1 February 2007, in patients who were receiving or had received anti-TNF treatment before the occurrence of the OI. This registry involved cases from clinicians of all concerned medical specialties and the French drug agency (Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits de Santé (AFSSAPS)) and its network of 31 regional pharmacovigilance centres.
- Authors conducted an incidence study and performed a case-control analysis to investigate the risk factors for newly diagnosed non-TB OIs in patients receiving anti-TNF agents.
- Exclusions: TB because it represented most of the collected cases of OI, as well as legionellosis, which were the subject of specific analyses.
- Cases were validated by panel of three infectious disease experts.
- For patients who had received more than one anti-TNF agent, authors considered three ways of examining the exposure: first anti-TNF agent, last anti-TNF agent, and any use of the anti-TNF agent.
- Annual incidence rate of OIs in patients receiving anti-TNF treatment was determined, adjusted for age and sex, with the French population used as reference.
- Numerator was validated OI cases.
- Denominator was based on the number of patient-years of receipt of anti-TNF agents in France during the 3-year period of the study (2004, 2005 and 2006) from different sources: the national French agency of drugs (AFSSAPS), the three pharmaceutical firms (Abbott,

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Schering- Plough and Wyeth) and the Régime Social des Indépendants (RSI) (the French health insurance fund for self-employed workers).

- A case–control study was performed with cases from the RATIO registry. Patients were included in the case–control analysis if they were being treated with an anti-TNF agent at the time of first symptoms of OI or if the anti-TNF treatment had been stopped <24 months before the first symptoms.
- Controls were patients treated with anti-TNF agents (current treatment or stopped for <24 months), for a labeled indication, in whom no OI had ever developed. Three controls for each case were randomly selected from that database, matched to cases by sex and underlying inflammatory disease.
- The diagnosis of the 45 validated infections was as follows: 15 bacterial infections (four listeriosis, four nocardiosis, four atypical mycobacteriosis, three non-typhoid bacteraemic salmonellosis), 18 severe viral infections (8 severe herpes zoster, 3 varicella with visceral involvement, 3 extensive herpes simplex infection, 4 disseminated cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection), 10 fungal infections (5 pneumocystosis, 3 invasive aspergillosis, 2 cryptococcosis), and 2 parasitic infections (2 leishmaniasis).
- For the 34 patients who had received only one anti-TNF agent, 25 had received infliximab, 7 adalimumab and 2 etanercept. For the 2 patients with two OIs, 1 received infliximab for RA and presented aspergillosis, then infliximab was resumed and the patient secondarily developed listeriosis. The second received infliximab for inflammatory colitis and presented concomitantly a disseminated CMV infection and a pneumocystosis (HIV-positive patient). Six patients had another cause of immunosuppression than anti-TNF (1 diabetes mellitus, 1 history of cancer, 1 AIDS, 3 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).
- The main analysis relied on a total number of 57,711 patient-years of use of anti-TNF therapy in France during the 2004–6 study period, with 18% receiving adalimumab, 51% etanercept and 31% infliximab as the denominator of the incidence rate. The annual incidence rate of OI adjusted for age and sex for patients receiving anti-TNF treatment, with the French population as a reference, was 151.6 (95% CI 0.0 to 468.3) per 100,000 patient-years. The incidence of OI for patients receiving anti-TNF treatment differed depending on the agent used without reaching statistical significance. The annual adjusted incidence rate of OI was 7.1 (95% CI 0.0 to 24.2) per 100,000 patient-years with etanercept, 290.9 (0.0 to 835.8) with infliximab and 61.8 (0.0 to 162.5) with adalimumab.
- The case–control study involved 38 cases (only cases treated for approved indication) and 114 controls. Among them, only two had stopped anti-TNF for more than 4 months (4.33 and 11 months). In the final model of the multivariate analysis, the following factors were predictive of OI: treatment with infliximab versus etanercept (OR=17.6 (95% CI 4.3 to 72.9), p<0.0001); treatment with adalimumab versus etanercept (OR=10.28 (95% CI 2.35 to 44.94), p=0.002), and treatment with steroids >10 mg/day or intravenous boluses during the previous year (OR=10.0 (95% CI 2.3 to 44.4), p=0.002). Multiple sensitivity analyses gave similar results.
- In almost all cases, infections were due to intracellular multiplying micro-organisms, with a severe course: 26% of patients required hospitalization in an intensive care unit and 9% died from the OI.
- Authors conclude study provides clear evidence of the high risk of occurrence of non-TB OIs with monoclonal anti-TNF antibody rather than soluble TNF receptor therapy.

Reviewer Comments

- Although the number of cases is small, the authors state the methodology of including cases when OI occurs provides the most power to detect differences and that many more cases were collected than by all other registries.
- This study demonstrated a higher risk of OI for patients receiving monoclonal antibody treatment (infliximab or adalimumab) than for those receiving soluble TNF receptor treatment (etanercept), with a 10- to 17-fold difference in risk in the case–control analysis, similar to findings in the RATIO TB study (Mariette 10). However, the 95% CIs of the OR and incidence rates are wide.
- There is a risk of missed cases. Authors make the assumption that reporting was equal between agents. However, differences in care experiences between agents could confound results.

Key Points

Agent	Annual Rate OI/100,000 Patient-years
IFX	290.9 (95% CI 0.0 to 835.8)
ADA	61.8 (95% CI 0.0 to 162.5)
ETN	7.1 (95% CI 0.0 to 24.2)
Odds Ratio (Comparator was patients receiving TNFi without previous OI)	
Treatment with IFX versus treatment with ETN	17.6 (95% CI 4.3 to 72.9)
Treatment with ADA versus treatment with ETN	10.28 (95% CI 2.35 to 44.94)
Treatment with steroids >10 mg/day or intravenous boluses during the previous year	10.0 (95% CI 2.3 to 44.4)

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SCANLON CRITIQUE SR ustekinumab psoriasis 09 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Scanlon 09

Citation: Scanlon JV, Exter BP, Steinberg M, Jarvis CI. Ustekinumab: treatment of adult moderate-to-severe chronic plaque psoriasis. *Ann Pharmacother* 2009 Sep;43(9):1456-65. PMID: 19671802

Study Type: SR

Agents of Interest: Ustekinumab in Psoriasis

Safety Outcomes: as reported in trials

Manufacture Involvement: Not stated.

ABSTRACT WITH RELEVANT SAFETY DATA

OBJECTIVE: To systematically review the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, clinical efficacy, and safety profile of ustekinumab to inform pharmacists and other healthcare professionals of this new biologic therapy for psoriasis.

DATA SOURCES: A search of PubMed/MEDLINE, EMBASE, and *International Pharmaceutical Abstracts* was performed through **July 2009**, limited to publications in English, using the search terms CNTO-1275, ustekinumab, interleukin-12, interleukin-23, and/or psoriasis to identify literature sources. References from the retrieved articles were also evaluated to identify relevant literature. An abstract from a Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology and unpublished Phase 3 clinical trials in progress (using www.clinicaltrials.gov) were also reviewed. The Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, and Health Canada Web sites were used to retrieve product monographs, regulatory guidances, and advisory committee briefing packets.

STUDY SELECTION AND DATA EXTRACTION: All available studies relevant to the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and clinical safety/efficacy of ustekinumab for the treatment of psoriasis were included, with preference for human data.

DATA SYNTHESIS: Ustekinumab is an anti-interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody. The frequency of adverse events was similar between ustekinumab and placebo; common adverse events reported included nasopharyngitis, upper respiratory tract infection, headache, arthralgia, cough, and injection site reactions. Phase 3 studies indicate that the optimal dosing appears to be 45 mg for patients weighing less than 100 kg or 90 mg for patients weighing more than 100 kg, with both doses administered subcutaneously. In these studies, the second dose was given 4 weeks after the first and then every 8–12 weeks thereafter, based upon response.

CONCLUSIONS: Ustekinumab was well tolerated in clinical trials. Ongoing clinical trials will allow clinicians to further assess the efficacy/safety profile of this novel biologic. **KEY WORDS:** CNTO-1275, interleukin-12, interleukin-23, psoriasis, ustekinumab. *Ann Pharmacother* 2009;43:1456-65.

Reviewer Comments

- Study details provided but formal quality assessment of trials not done.
- 3 trials included in safety review, N not stated.
- Search quality: high
- Search dates: 1966 through July 2009
- Heterogeneity: not provided.
- Power: high likelihood of being underpowered to detect differences between groups if they exist.
- Studies were relatively small

Primary Studies Included in Safety Review

Krueger GG, Langley RG, Leonardi C, et al. A human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody for the treatment of psoriasis. *N Engl J Med* 2007; 356:580-92. DOI 10.1056/NEJMoa062382

Leonardi CL, Kimball AB, Papp KA, et al. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab, a human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody, in patients with psoriasis: 76-week results from a randomised, double-blind, placebo- controlled trial (PHOENIX 1). *Lancet* 2008;371:1665-74. DOI 10.1016/S0140-6736(08)60725-4

Papp KA, Langley RG, Lebwohl M, et al. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab, a human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody, in patients with psoriasis: 52-week results from a randomised, double-blind, placebo- controlled trial (PHOENIX 2). *Lancet* 2008;371:1675-84. DOI 10.1016/S0140-6736(08)60726-6

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Primary Studies Included in Safety Review (Weighted Mean Of The Group For Each Trial)

Category	Papp 08	Leonardi 08	Krueger 07
Sample size (N)	1230	766	320
Age (y)	46	45	45
Sex (% male)	68.3	69.3	69.2
Weight (kg)	91	93.9	92.9
Duration of psoriasis (y)	20.1	19.9	18.2
BSA involved (%)	26.4	26.7	27.2
PGA (% marked or severe)	39.70	43.70	NR
PASI score	19.6	20.2	19.1
DLQI score	12.4	11.5	12.08
Pts. with latent tuberculosis (%)	3.5	3.2	0

BSA = body surface area; DLQI = Dermatology Life Quality Index; NR = not reported; PASI = Psoriasis Area and Severity Index; PGA = Physician's Global Assessment.

Adverse Events

Authors reviewed the 3 large-scale clinical trials with published safety data conducted in patients with moderate-to severe psoriasis and concluded ustekinumab can be classified as generally well tolerated, as demonstrated by its comparable safety profile to placebo. The most common adverse events (>5%) reported in the large-scale PHOENIX trials were nasopharyngitis and upper respiratory tract infection; headache, arthralgia, cough, and injection site reactions were also commonly reported.

Authors concluded that ustekinumab may have the potential for causing several serious adverse events, such as malignancy, infections, and immunogenicity, due to its selective immunomodulator activity. Despite this potential, based on the placebo-controlled data available, there does not appear to be a significant risk of malignancy with ustekinumab use.

In the PHOENIX trials, most of the reported cancers in any of the study arms were cutaneous malignancies. Any assessment of causality is inherently confounded by the high rate of baseline phototherapy (>50%) in these patients. In the placebo-controlled trials conducted in patients with psoriasis, the incidence of malignancies, excluding nonmelanoma skin cancers, was 0.36 per 100 patient-years of follow-up for ustekinumab-treated patients (8 patients in 2249 patientyears of follow-up), similar to the rate in the general population.

12-week data from the ACCEPT trial revealed 3 patients in the ustekinumab arms with non- melanoma skin cancers; however, given the short trial duration, the clinical relevance is unknown.

Despite the fact that infections occurred in more than 20% of patients, rates were similar when compared with placebo; both serious and nonserious infections occurred at similar rates to placebo in the PHOENIX trials

The **combined rate of infection** exhibited in these trials was 1.39 per patient-year of follow-up in ustekinumab treated patients and 1.21 per patient-year of follow-up in placebo-treated patients. In the pivotal trials (Leonardi 08, Papp 08) rates for serious infections were:

Study	Leonardi 08			Papp 08		
	Placebo N=255	UST 45 mg N=255	UST 90 mg N=255	Placebo N=405	UST 45 mg N=409	UST 90 mg N=411
Serious Infections	2 (0.5)	0	1 (0.2)	1 (0.4)	0	2 (0.8)
Cutaneous Cancers	1 (0.2)	0	1 (0.2)	0	0	0
Noncutaneous Cancers	1 (0.2)	0	0	0	0	0
CV Events	0	0	1 (0.2)	0	1 (0.4)	0

Twenty-four serious infections were reported, including pneumonias, urinary tract infections, viral infections, osteomyelitis, diverticulitis, and cellulitis, in all of the placebo-controlled trials, including 2251 patients treated with ustekinumab.

Anti-ustekinumab antibody formation was rarely observed in psoriasis clinical trials (approximately 5% of all ustekinumab-treated patients). Although a correlation between antibody formation and efficacy has not been proven, there was a trend toward lower ustekinumab serum concentrations and less of a clinical response seen in patients who were seropositive for anti-ustekinumab antibodies.

Key point: Three of these RCTs, totaling 2,316 patients reported a serious infection rate of less than 1% for placebo, UST 45mg and UST 90 mg groups up to 12 weeks.

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SCHIFF TUBERCULOSIS RA IFX 06 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Schiff 06

Citation: Schiff MH, Burmester GR, Kent JD, Pangan AL, Kupper H, Fitzpatrick SB, Donovan C. Safety analyses of adalimumab (HUMIRA) in global clinical trials and US postmarketing surveillance of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2006 Jul;65(7):889-94. Epub 2006 Jan 26. PubMed PMID: 16439435.

Manufacture Involvement: 3/5 authors employed by Abbott Laboratories. In addition Michael Nissen, ELS, of Abbott Laboratories; and Discovery International of Chicago participated in the writing of the manuscript. Joseph Beason of Abbott Laboratories participated in data acquisition.

Abstract
<p>Objective: To assess the safety of adalimumab in global clinical trials and postmarketing surveillance among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>Methods: Safety data for adalimumab treated patients from randomised controlled trials, open label extensions, and two phase IIIb open label trials were analysed. In addition, postmarketing spontaneous reports of adverse events in the United States were collected following Food and Drug Administration approval of adalimumab on 31 December 2002.</p> <p>Results: As of 15 April 2005, the RA clinical trial safety database analysed covered 10 050 patients, representing 12 506 patient-years (PYs) of adalimumab exposure. The rate of serious infections, 5.1/ 100 PYs, was comparable to that reported on 31 August 2002 (4.9/100 PYs), and to published reports of RA populations naive to anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy. Following implementation of tuberculosis (TB) screening in clinical trials, the rate of TB decreased. There were 34 cases of TB as of this analysis (0.27/100 PYs). The standardised incidence ratio for lymphoma was 3.19 (95% CI 1.78 to 5.26), consistent with the observed increased incidence in the general RA population. As of 30 June 2005, there were an estimated 78 522 PYs of exposure to adalimumab in the US postmarketing period. Seventeen TB cases were spontaneously reported (0.02/100 PYs) from the US. Rates of other postmarketing events of interest, such as congestive heart failure, systemic lupus erythematosus, opportunistic infections, blood dyscrasias, lymphomas, and demyelinating disease, support observations from clinical trials.</p> <p>Conclusion: Analyses of these data demonstrate that long term adalimumab treatment is generally safe and well tolerated in patients with RA.</p>
Reviewer Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agents of Interest: ADA • Useful post-marketing data

Summary

Relative Risk Of Demyelinating Disease In Controlled And Open Label Clinical Trials of RA Patients Receiving ADA

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000	Control Incidence/100,000 (from Incidence of Multiple Sclerosis and Optic Neuritis in US population)	RR [^]
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	80 (10 of 12,506)	8.0	1.3

[^]95% CI not reported

Relative Risk Of Demyelinating Disease In Post-Marketing Surveillance Studies Of RA Patients Receiving ADA

Reference	Population	Experimental Incidence/100,000	Control Incidence/100,000 8.0(from Incidence of MS and ON in US population)	RR [^]
Schiff 06	Adalimumab in RA	~7.0 (of 78,522)	8.0	1.3

Abbreviations: ON= optic neuritis, MS=multiple sclerosis

*Assumed 1 year of exposure

[^]95% CI not reported

Risk of Tuberculosis

The incidence of tuberculosis prior to routine TB screening in patients receiving adalimumab was 7 cases of TB in 534 patient-years (PY) of adalimumab exposure (1.3/100 PY), but the incidence was only 23 cases in 7,058 PY (0.27/100 PY) beginning in 1999 when trial protocols called for tuberculosis screening. Following the initiation of TB screening 5/866 patients receiving tuberculosis prophylaxis (0.6%) developed active tuberculosis.

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SEONG KOREAN REGISTRY 07 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Seong 07

Citation: Seong SS, Choi CB, Woo JH, Bae KW, Joung CL, Uhm WS, Kim TH, Jun JB, Yoo DH, Lee JT, Bae SC. Incidence of tuberculosis in Korean patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA): effects of RA itself and of tumor necrosis factor blockers. J Rheumatol. 2007 Apr;34(4):706-11. Epub 2007 Feb 15. PubMed PMID: 17309133.

Study Type: Registry Korean

Manufacture Involvement: No mention.

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: To elucidate the incidence rate and relative risk of tuberculosis (TB) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and in patients with RA treated with tumor-necrosis-factor (TNF) blockers in Korea.

METHODS: Using data from the Korean National Tuberculosis Association (KNTA) as a control and data from a single-center cohort of patients with RA, we conducted an evaluation of 1285 patients with RA not exposed to TNF blockers and reviewed medical records of 90 and 103 patients with RA treated with infliximab and etanercept, respectively, between 2001 and 2005. **RESULTS:** The mean incidence rate of TB, reported by the KNTA, was 67.2 per 100,000 person years (PY) from 2001 to 2004. In the TNF-blocker-naïve RA cohort, 9 cases of TB developed during 3497 PY of followup (257 per 100,000). In the infliximab-treated RA group, 2 cases of TB developed during 78.17 PY of followup (2558 per 100,000 PY), and there was no case of TB during 73.67 PY of followup in the etanercept-treated RA group. The risk of TB was higher in RA patients not treated with TNF blockers (sex- and age-adjusted risk ratio 8.9; 95% confidence interval 4.6-17.2), and in those treated with infliximab (sex- and age-adjusted risk ratio, 30.1; 95% confidence interval, 7.4-122.3) compared with the general Korean population.

CONCLUSION: The risk of TB infection is 8.9-fold higher in Korean patients with RA and 30.1-fold higher in RA patients treated with infliximab, compared with the general Korean population.

Reviewer Comments

Risk of TB by Biologic DMARD (Seong 07)

Agent	Cases/Subjects (Time-to-Develop)	Sex- And Age-adjusted Risk Ratio (Compared to Korean Population)
IFX	2/90	30.1 (95% CI 7.4 to 122.3)
ETN	0/103	1

- Korean Tuberculosis Surveillance System (KTBS) is an Internet-based reporting system serving 254 public health centers and 3 TB-specialized hospitals in the public sector, as well as 282 general hospitals, 636 hospitals, and 18,869 clinics in the private sectors, to report new TB patients to the Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the KNTA. It is mandatory for physicians to report active TB to the KTBS in Korea.
- Followup period of this study was short (8.6 ± 6.4 months).

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SINGH 09 COCHRANE BIOLOGICS RA 09 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Singh 09

Citation: Singh JA, Christensen R, Wells GA, Suarez-Almazor ME, Buchbinder R, Lopez-Olivo MA, Tanjong Ghogomu E, Tugwell P. Biologics for rheumatoid arthritis: an overview of Cochrane reviews. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2009, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD007848. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007848.pub2.

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, in RA

Safety Outcomes: Withdrawal due to serious adverse events

Manufacture Involvement: No.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACT SAFETY INFORMATION

Background

The biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) are very effective in treating rheumatoid arthritis (RA), however there is a lack of head-to-head comparison studies. Objectives To compare the efficacy and safety of abatacept, adalimumab, anakinra, etanercept, infliximab, and rituximab in patients with RA.

Methods

This 'Overview of Reviews' was done by including all Cochrane Reviews on Biologics for RA available in The Cochrane Library. We included only data on standard dosing regimens for these biologic DMARDs from placebo-controlled trials. The primary efficacy and safety outcomes were ACR50 and withdrawals due to adverse events. We calculated Odds Ratios (OR) for efficacy and safety outcomes and combined estimates of events across the placebo groups as the expected Control Event Rate (CER). Indirect comparisons of biologics were performed for efficacy and safety using a hierarchical generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) incorporating the most important study-level characteristic (i.e. type of biologic) as a fixed factor and study and study*drug interaction as random factors.

Main results

From the six available Cochrane reviews, we obtained data from seven studies on abatacept, eight on adalimumab, five on anakinra, four on etanercept, four on infliximab, and three on rituximab. In terms of safety, adalimumab was more likely to lead to withdrawals compared to etanercept, with a ratio of ORs of 1.89 (1.18 to 3.04; P = 0.009); anakinra more likely than etanercept, 2.05 (1.27 to 3.29; P = 0.003); and likewise etanercept less likely than infliximab, 0.37 (0.19 to 0.70; P = 0.002).

Authors' conclusions

Etanercept seemed to cause fewer withdrawals due to adverse events than adalimumab, anakinra and infliximab. Significant heterogeneity in characteristics of trial populations imply that these findings must be interpreted with caution. These findings can inform physicians and patients regarding their choice of biologic for treatment of RA.

Reviewer Comments

- Six Cochrane reviews with 8 studies on adalimumab in adults (2944 subjects with safety evaluations), 4 on etanercept (1248 subjects with safety evaluations) and 4 on infliximab (835 subjects with safety evaluations).
- Search quality: high
- Inclusion criteria: Completed/updated/available Cochrane systematic reviews of biologic DMARDs for RA. A review was included if it contained at least one RCT, had clinically relevant outcomes, and included clear inclusion and exclusion criteria for studies. They only included studies using the standard dosing regimens of biologic DMARDs.
- Interventions: Biologic DMARDs (including abatacept, adalimumab, anakinra, etanercept, infliximab, rituximab and other biologic DMARDs) alone used in standard, approved-doses or in combination with other biologic/traditional DMARD compared to placebo alone or to placebo plus biologic/traditional DMARD.
- For infliximab, the review included randomized controlled trials comparing infliximab 1, 3, 5 or 10 mg/kg with methotrexate (MTX) to MTX alone, or without MTX to placebo, with a minimum duration of 6 months and at least 2 infusions.
- For adalimumab, the review included randomized controlled trials (RCTs) or controlled clinical trials (CCTs) comparing adalimumab alone or in combination with DMARDs to placebo or other DMARDs.
- For etanercept, the review included randomized controlled (RCTs) or controlled clinical trials (CCTs) comparing etanercept to placebo, etanercept to methotrexate, or etanercept plus methotrexate to methotrexate alone that were of at least six months duration.
- Using GRADE* ratings the quality of evidence was rated as low for adalimumab, moderate for etanercept and high for infliximab. Randomization and blinding were not described and allocation concealment was not clear in 7 of the adalimumab studies: Breedveld 2007; Furst 2003; Keystone 2004; Kim 2007; Miyasaka 2008; van de Putte 2004; Weinblatt 2003.
- Non-standard doses were used in some trials.
- The etanercept trials included a study without a description of randomization (TEMPO 2004); in another etanercept trial allocation concealment and blinding were not described (COMET 2008).
- Withdrawals due to adverse events were significantly higher in patients allocated to adalimumab, NNH 39 (19 to 162) and infliximab, NNH 18 (8 to 72) than in those allocated to placebo.

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- Withdrawals due to etanercept did not differ significantly from placebo.
- Indirect comparisons for withdrawals due to adverse events showed that adalimumab and infliximab each were significantly more likely to lead to withdrawals compared to etanercept.
- The authors reviewed a previous systematic review (Lee YH, Woo JH, Rho YH, Choi SJ, Ji JD, Song GG. Metaanalysis of the combination of TNF inhibitors plus MTX compared to MTX monotherapy, and the adjusted indirect comparison of TNF inhibitors in patients suffering from active rheumatoid arthritis. *Rheumatology International* 2008;**28**(6):553–9.) and concluded that the the authors of the earlier review failed to reduce the between-study variation and did not interpret their data in absolute terms. Withdrawals due to adverse events among the 3 TNF inhibitors in the earlier meta-analysis were as follows: etanercept versus infliximab, 1.01 (95% CI 0.30 to 3.42, P = 0.98); etanercept versus adalimumab, 0.38 (0.17 to 0.86, P= 0.02); and infliximab versus adalimumab, 0.37 (0.11 to 1.36, P=0.14).
- The Cochrane comparisons suggest that increased adherence to treatment is likely with etanercept compared to adalimumab and infliximab.
- Suggestive of decreased incidence of withdrawals due to adverse events with etanercept compared infliximab OR 0.37 (0.19 to 0.70; P = 0.002).
- Suggestive of increased incidence of withdrawals due to adalimumab compared to etanercept OR 1.89 (1.18 to 3.04; P = 0.009).

*GRADE: The GRADE approach to evaluating quality of studies specifies four levels of quality:

- High quality for randomized trials; or double-upgraded observational studies;
- Moderate quality for downgraded randomized trials; or upgraded observational studies;
- Low quality for double-downgraded randomized trials; or observational studies; and,
- Very low quality for triple-downgraded randomized trials or downgraded observational studies or case series/case reports.

Authors could downgrade randomized trial evidence by one or two levels depending on the presence of five factors:

- Serious (-1) or very serious (-2) limitation to study quality
- Important inconsistency (-1)
- Some (-1) or major (-2) uncertainty about directness
- Imprecise or sparse data (-1)
- High probability of reporting bias (-1).

Atkins D, Best D, Briss PA, Eccles M, Falck-Ytter Y, Flottorp S, et al. Grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. *BMJ* 2004;**328**(7454):1490.

Primary Studies Included in Cochrane Review

Bejarano V, Quinn M, Conaghan PG, Reece R, Keenan AM, Walker D, Gough A, Green M, McGonagle D, Adebajo A, Jarrett S, Doherty S, Hordon L, Melsom R, Unnebrink K, Kupper H, Emery P. Effect of the early use of the anti-tumor necrosis factor adalimumab on the prevention of job loss in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2008 Oct 15; 59 (10):1467-74.
Breedveld FC, Weisman MH, Kavanaugh AF, Cohen SB, Pavelka K, van Vollenhoven R, Sharp J, Perez JL, Spencer-Green GT. The PREMIER study: A multicenter, randomized, double-blind clinical trial of combination therapy with adalimumab plus methotrexate versus methotrexate alone or adalimumab alone in patients with early, aggressive rheumatoid arthritis who had not had previous methotrexate treatment. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006 Jan; 54 (1):26-37.
Emery P, Breedveld FC, Hall S, Durez P, Chang DJ, Robertson D, Singh A, Pedersen RD, Koenig AS, Freundlich B. Comparison of methotrexate monotherapy with a combination of methotrexate and etanercept in active, early, moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (COMET): a randomised, double-blind, parallel treatment trial. <i>Lancet</i> 2008 Aug 2; 372 (9636):375-82.
Furst DE, Schiff MH, Fleischmann RM, et al. Adalimumab, a fully human anti tumor necrosis factor-alpha monoclonal antibody, and concomitant standard antirheumatic therapy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: results of STAR (Safety Trial of Adalimumab in Rheumatoid Arthritis).[see comment]. <i>Journal of Rheumatology</i> . 2003; 30 :2563-2571.
Keystone E, Heijde D, Mason D, Jr., Landewe R, Vollenhoven RV, Combe B, Emery P, Strand V, Mease P, Desai C, Pavelka K. Certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate is significantly more effective than placebo plus methotrexate in active rheumatoid arthritis: findings of a fifty-two-week, phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2008 Nov; 58 (11):3319-29.
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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

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Comparison of Biologics to Placebo for Safety (Withdrawals Because of Adverse Events)

BIOLOGIC	WITHDRAWALS BIOLOGIC	WITHDRAWALS PLACEBO	ODDS RATIO
ADA: 8 Trials	123/1822	54/1122	1.57 (95% CI 1.11 to 2.21)
ETN: 4 Trials	56/642	70/606	0.75 (95% CI 0.52 to 1.09)
IFX: 4 Trials	40/455	16/380	1.79 (95% CI 0.56 to 5.73)

Indirect Comparison of Biologics for Safety (Withdrawals Because of Adverse Events)

Drug 1	Drug 2	Odds Ratio	Favors
ADA	ETN	1.89 (95% CI 1.18 to 3.04)	ETN
ADA	IFX	0.70 (95% CI 0.38 to 1.28)	ADA
ETN	IFX	0.37 (95% CI 0.19 to 0.7)	ETN

Key Points:

This review included 8 ADA trials (2944 subjects with safety evaluations), 4 ETN trials (1248 subjects with safety evaluations) and 4 IFX trials (835 subjects with safety evaluations). ADA was more likely to lead to withdrawals compared to ETN, with a ratio of ORs of 1.89 (95% CI 1.18 to 3.04), P = 0.009. ETN was less likely than IFX to result in withdrawals than placebo with a ratio of ORs of 0.37 (95% CI 0.19 to 0.70), P = 0.002 compared to controls. The Cochrane investigators estimated the NNH (withdrawal due to adverse event) and 95% confidence interval (CI) compared to placebo as follows (studies were of 6 to 12 months duration): 39 (95% CI 19 to 162) for ADA and 18 (95% CI 8 to 72) for infliximab. Based on this data, an additional 5 to 6 patients out of 100 treated with IFX and an additional 2 to 3 patients treated with ADA will withdraw compared to ETN.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

SINGH SR GOLIMUMAB RA cochrane 10 FINAL UPDATED DELFINI

AUTHOR YR: Singh 10

Citation: Singh JA, Noorbaloochi S, Singh G. Golimumab for rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review. J Rheumatol. 2010 Jun;37(6):1096-104. Epub 2010 May 1. Review. PubMed PMID: 20436075.

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Agents of Interest: Golimumab (GLM) Simponi in RA

Safety Outcomes: serious adverse events, infections, serious infections, lung infections, tuberculosis, cancer, withdrawals due to adverse events and deaths.

Manufacture Involvement: No.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACT WITH RELEVANT SAFETY DATA COCHRANE

Background

Golimumab is a humanized inhibitor of tumor necrosis factor-alpha, recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of Rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives The objective of this systematic review was to compare the efficacy and safety of golimumab (alone or in combination with DMARDs or biologics) to placebo (alone or in combination with DMARDs or biologics) in randomized or quasi-randomized clinical trials in adults with RA.

Search strategy

An expert librarian searched six databases for any clinical trials of golimumab in RA, including the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), OVID MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, Science Citation Index (Web of Science) and Current Controlled Trials databases.

Selection criteria

Studies were included if they used golimumab in adults with RA, were randomized or quasi-randomized and provided clinical outcomes. Data collection and analysis Two review authors (JS, SN) independently reviewed all titles and abstracts, selected appropriate studies for full review and reviewed the full-text articles for the final selection of included studies. For each study, they independently abstracted study characteristics, safety and efficacy data and performed risk of bias assessment. Disagreements were resolved by consensus. For continuous measures, we calculated mean differences or standardized mean differences and for categorical measures, relative risks. 95% confidence intervals were calculated.

Main results

Four RCTs with 1,231 patients treated with golimumab and 483 patients treated with placebo were included. Of these, 436 were treated with the FDA-approved dose of golimumab 50 mg every four weeks. No significant differences were noted between golimumab and placebo regarding serious adverse events, infections, serious infections, lung infections, tuberculosis, cancer, withdrawals due to adverse events and deaths.

Reviewer Comments

- Authors state that randomized controlled trials included in the review are limited in their ability to assess safety. They searched U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) web site for labels and warnings and other similar regulatory agency's web sites to summarize warnings related to golimumab.
- 148 relevant studies, 4 included in review
- Cochrane N=1231
- Search quality: high
- Search dates: 1966 to June Week 3, 2009
- Additional safety searches: FDA web site for warnings and adverse events related to golimumab use on 09/01/2009.
- Inclusion criteria: Studies were included if they used golimumab in adults with RA, were randomized or quasi-randomized and provided clinical outcomes.
- Intervention: golimumab 50 mg and 100 mg every four weeks plus methotrexate versus placebo plus methotrexate.
- Quality assessment
 - The following were assessed: blinding of participant, care provider and outcome assessor in the studies, allocation concealment, random sequence generation, incomplete outcome data, and selective outcome reporting. Each trial was assessed as being at high, low or unclear risk of bias. All studies reported adequate methods of randomization, allocation concealment and blinding.
 - The overall possibility of bias rated as low.
- Heterogeneity: moderately high and statistically significant heterogeneity in the golimumab 50 mg and 100 mg every four weeks plus

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methotrexate versus placebo plus methotrexate groups with I^2 values of 76% and 77%(P-values of 0.005 for each).

- Studies were relatively small and of relatively short duration.
- Golimumab (50mg every 4-weeks) was not associated with statistically significant higher risk of infections, serious infections, tuberculosis, lung infections, cancer or death in Cochrane review.
- Withdrawals due to adverse events not statistically significantly different in groups.
- None of the RCTs had safety as the primary outcome.
- High likelihood of being underpowered to detect differences between groups if they exist.

Additional Information From Delfini Updated Search and Review of Additional Studies

- Keystone 10: Patients who received the 100 mg dose of golimumab with or without methotrexate appeared to have greater rates of serious adverse events and serious infections compared with patients who received 50 mg with methotrexate.
- Kremer 10 reported increased serious adverse events and serious infections with GLM compared to placebo.

Conclusions

- Based on safety data from 2723 patients, there are weak signals of increased serious adverse events and serious infections with GLM compared to placebo and a suggestion of higher rates with 100mg doses. Long-term surveillance studies and RCTs with safety as primary outcome are needed to provide reliable safety data.

Primary Studies Included in Cochrane Review

Emery P, Fleischmann RM, Moreland LW, Hsia EC, Strusberg I, Durez P, et al. Golimumab, a human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody, injected subcutaneously every four weeks in methotrexate-naïve patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: Twenty-four-week results of a phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of golimumab before methotrexate as first-line therapy for early-onset rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009;60(8):2272–83.

Kay J, Matteson EL, Dasgupta B, Nash P, Durez P, Hall S, et al. Golimumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite treatment with methotrexate: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;58:964–75.

Keystone EC, Genovese MC, Klareskog L, Hsia EC, Hall ST, Miranda PC, et al. Golimumab, a human antibody to tumour necrosis factor {alpha} given by monthly subcutaneous injections, in active rheumatoid arthritis despite methotrexate therapy: the GO-FORWARD Study. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2009;68:789–96.

Smolen JS, Kay J, Doyle MK, Landewe R, Matteson EL, Wollenhaupt J, et al. Golimumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis after treatment with tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors (GO-AFTER study): a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III trial. *Lancet* 2009;374(9685):210–21.

UPDATED SEARCH 11/15/10

Kavanaugh A, McInnes I, Mease P, Krueger GG, Gladman D, Gomez-Reino J, Papp K, Zrubek J, Mudivarthi S, Mack M, Visvanathan S, Beutler A. Golimumab, a new human tumor necrosis factor alpha antibody, administered every four weeks as a subcutaneous injection in psoriatic arthritis: Twenty-four-week efficacy and safety results of a randomized, placebo-controlled study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009 Apr;60(4):976-86.PMID: 19333944

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Kremer J, Ritchlin C, Mendelsohn A, Baker D, Kim L, Xu Z, Han J, Taylor P. Golimumab, a new human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha antibody, administered intravenously in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: Forty-eight-week efficacy and safety results of a phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2010 Apr;62(4):917-28.

From Cochrane

Golimumbab with MTX to Placebo for Withdrawals Due to Adverse Events

- All four studies provided data from 1231 patients (Emery 2009, Kay 2008, Keystone 2009, Smolen 2009).
- The odds ratio (95% CI) for withdrawals due to adverse events in golimumab-treated RA patients was 0.80 (95% CI 0.26, 2.42), compared to placebo.
- Authors comment: The safety profile of golimumab was similar to that of methotrexate with regards to number of adverse events, serious adverse events, infections, serious infections and cancer. Withdrawals rates overall and due to adverse events were similar.

Golimumab 100 mg every four weeks + methotrexate versus placebo + methotrexate

- Number and type of adverse effects (AEs) and serious adverse events (SAEs): There was no significant difference between the number of adverse events and serious adverse events occurring for golimumab treated patients compared to placebo treated patients with (P= 0.14) and (P=0.9) respectively.

Golimumab 50 mg every two weeks + methotrexate versus placebo + methotrexate

- Number and type of adverse effects (AEs) and serious adverse events (SAEs): There was no significant difference between the number of adverse events and serious adverse events occurring for golimumab treated patients compared to placebo treated patients with (P=0.3) and (P=0.6) respectively.

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Delfini Update 11/15/10:

Keystone 2010

52 week study: 444 patients. Patients were randomly assigned to receive placebo plus methotrexate (group 1), golimumab 100 mg plus placebo (group 2), golimumab 50 mg plus methotrexate (group 3) and golimumab 100 mg plus methotrexate (group 4). At week 16, patients in groups 1, 2 and 3 who had less than 20% improvement in tender and swollen joints entered early escape (removed from group due to lack of efficacy). At week 24, patients in group 1 who had not entered early escape crossed over to 50 mg golimumab plus methotrexate. See Keystone 10 above for results.

Kremer 2010

- Phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 48-week study of 643 patients to assess the efficacy and safety of intravenous administration of golimumab (with and without MTX) in patients in whom RA remained active despite treatment with MTX.
- Eligible patients were randomly assigned (1:1:1:1), using an interactive voice-response system, to receive blinded intravenous infusions of placebo plus MTX, 2 mg/kg golimumab with or without MTX, or 4 mg/kg golimumab with or without MTX.
- Golimumab and placebo were supplied as sterile liquid (aqueous medium of histidine, sorbitol, polysorbate 80, pH 5.5, with or without golimumab) ready for intravenous infusion. Active and placebo MTX were supplied as matching opaque capsules (microcrystalline cellulose filled with or without MTX; those with MTX were overencapsulated and provided the stable prescreening dose).
- Safety evaluations through week 48 included assessment for adverse events, including infusion site reactions, routine laboratory analyses, and determination of antibodies to golimumab.
- Higher proportions of golimumab-treated patients than placebo plus MTX-treated patients had serious adverse events (63 [10%] of 626 patients and 7 [5%] of 129 patients, respectively)
- Serious infections (23 [4%] of 626 GLM-treated patients and 2 [2%] of 129 placebo patients,) through week 48.
- Two cases of TB occurred between week 24 and week 48 in patients who initially tested negative for TB at the time of screening (1 patient each from Argentina and Mexico, and 1 each receiving 4 mg/kg golimumab plus placebo and 4 mg/kg golimumab plus MTX).

Kavanaugh 2009

- 24 week placebo-controlled, double blind trial: 405 patients were randomized in a blinded manner (1:1.3:1.3) by a centralized interactive voice response system (113, 146, 146 patients to placebo, golimumab 50mg + stable dose of MTX, corticosteroids and NSAIDs and golimumab 100mg + stable doses as above.
- Safety evaluations included adverse events, routine laboratory analyses, and the presence of antibodies to golimumab. The incidence of malignancies was determined based on 100 patient-years of followup, with corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs).
- Similar baseline characteristics.
- All patients included in safety analysis.
- Serious infections in placebo, combined GOL groups: 4% and <1%; serious adverse events: 6% and <1%; injection site reactions: 3% and 3%. Thus there was no signal of increased serious infection rate with GLM compared to placebo.
- Three malignancies were reported, all in the golimumab 100 mg group (2 cases of basal cell carcinoma and 1 case of prostate cancer), representing an incidence of 2.32 (95% CI 0.48 to 6.78) per 100 patient-years versus 0.00 (95% CI 0.00 to 7.13) per 100 patient-years for placebo, with the 95% CI for golimumab fully contained within that for placebo.
- Eight golimumab-treated patients (3%) and 5 placebo treated patients (4%) discontinued the study agent due to adverse events occurring prior to week 24.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

SINGH 11 COCHRANE SAFETY ADA_CZP_ETN_GLN_IFX_

AUTHOR YR: Singh 11

Citation: Singh JA, Wells GA, Christensen R, Tanjong Ghogomu E, Maxwell L, MacDonald JK, Filippini G, Skoetz N, Francis D, Lopes LC, Guyatt GH, Schmitt J, La Mantia L, Weberschock T, Roos JF, Siebert H, Hershan S, Lunn MPT, Tugwell P, Buchbinder R. Adverse effects of biologics: a network meta-analysis and Cochrane overview. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2011, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD008794. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008794.pub2.. PubMed PMID:

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Agents of Interest: ADA, CZP, ETN ,GLN, IFX

Safety Outcomes: serious adverse events, infections, serious infections, , tuberculosis, withdrawals due to adverse events in patients with any disease condition except human immunodeficiency disease (HIV/AIDS).

Manufacture Involvement: No.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACT WITH RELEVANT SAFETY DATA COCHRANE

Background

Biologics are used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and many other conditions. While the efficacy of biologics has been established, there is uncertainty regarding the adverse effects of this treatment. Since serious risks such as tuberculosis (TB) reactivation, serious infections, and lymphomas may be common to the biologics but occur in small numbers across the various indications, we planned to combine the results from biologics used in many conditions to obtain the much needed risk estimates.

Objectives

To compare the adverse effects of tumor necrosis factor blocker (etanercept, adalimumab, infliximab, golimumab, certolizumab), interleukin (IL)-1 antagonist (anakinra), IL-6 antagonist (tocilizumab), anti-CD28 (abatacept), and anti-B cell (rituximab) therapy in patients with any disease condition except human immunodeficiency disease (HIV/AIDS).

Methods

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs), controlled clinical trials (CCTs) and open-label extension (OLE) studies that studied one of the nine biologics for use in any indication (with the exception of HIV/AIDS) and that reported our pre-specified adverse outcomes were considered for inclusion. We searched The Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, and EMBASE (to January 2010). Identifying search results and data extraction were performed independently and in duplicate. For the network meta-analysis, we performed mixed-effects logistic regression using an arm-based, random-effects model within an empirical Bayes framework.

Main results

We included 163 RCTs with 50,010 participants and 46 extension studies with 11,954 participants. The median duration of RCTs was six months and 13 months for OLEs. Data were limited for tuberculosis (TB) reactivation, lymphoma, and congestive heart failure. Adjusted for dose, biologics as a group were associated with a statistically significant higher rate of total adverse events (odds ratio (OR) 1.19, 95% CI 1.09 to 1.30; number needed to treat to harm (NNTH) = 30, 95% CI 21 to 60) and withdrawals due to adverse events (OR 1.32, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.64; NNTH = 37, 95% CI 19 to 190) and an increased risk of TB reactivation (OR 4.68, 95% CI 1.18 to 18.60; NNTH = 681, 95% CI 143 to 14706) compared to control.

The rate of serious adverse events, serious infections, lymphoma, and congestive heart failure were not statistically significantly different between biologics and control treatment.

Certolizumab pegol was associated with significantly higher risk of serious infections compared to control treatment (OR 3.51, 95% CI 1.59 to 7.79; NNTH = 17, 95% CI 7 to 68).

Infliximab was associated with significantly higher risk of withdrawals due to adverse events compared to control (OR 2.04, 95% CI 1.43 to 2.91; NNTH = 12, 95% CI 8 to 28).

Indirect comparisons revealed that abatacept and anakinra were associated with a significantly lower risk of serious adverse events compared to most other biologics. Although the overall numbers are relatively small, certolizumab pegol was associated with significantly higher odds of serious infections compared to etanercept, adalimumab, abatacept, anakinra, golimumab, infliximab, and rituximab; abatacept was significantly less likely than infliximab and tocilizumab to be associated with serious infections. Abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept and golimumab were significantly less likely than infliximab to result in withdrawals due to adverse events.

Authors' conclusions

Overall, in the short term biologics were associated with significantly higher rates of total adverse events, withdrawals due to adverse

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

events and TB reactivation. Some biologics had a statistically higher association with certain adverse outcomes compared to control, but there was no consistency across the outcomes so caution is needed in interpreting these results. There is an urgent need for more research regarding the long-term safety of biologics and the comparative safety of different biologics. National and international registries and other types of large databases are relevant sources for providing complementary evidence regarding the short- and longer-term safety of biologics.

Reviewer Comments

- Search quality: high
- Search dates: 1966 to January 2010
- RCTs and open label extensions both Likely to be underpowered to detect relative differences in most outcomes between agents.
- Quality of evidence synthesis was rated as moderate for agents and outcomes of interest.
- Due mainly to lack of data, authors' confidence in the results for TB reactivation, lymphoma, and congestive heart failure was graded as 'low'.
- Quality assessment: levels of evidence were assessed as moderate for all outcomes of interest presented in table below.
 - Allocation concealment, random sequence generation, presence of blinding in the studies (patients, assessors and physicians), incomplete outcome data, selective outcome reporting, and evidence of major baseline imbalance. In addition, the following criteria, specific to the assessment of adverse effects, were assessed. Adverse event definition: did the study provide a definition for 'severe adverse events'? Method of adverse event assessment: did the researchers actively monitor for AEs (low risk of bias) or did they simply provide spontaneous reporting of AEs that arose (high risk of bias)? The risk of bias of each study was explicitly judged on each criterion using the following: Yes (low risk of bias), No (high risk of bias), or Unclear (either lack of information or uncertainty over the potential for bias).
 - Reported an overall grading of the evidence related to each of the main outcomes, using the GRADE approach. The control event rates used in the calculation of absolute risks were: 118 per 1000 for serious adverse events; 26 per 1000 for serious infections; 724 per 1000 for total adverse events; 98 per 1000 for withdrawals due to adverse events; 8 per 1000 for congestive heart failure; 9 per 10,000 for lymphoma; and 4 per 10,000 for tuberculosis reactivation. These control event rates were calculated based on the number of events in the included studies.
 - A total of 163 RCTs with 50,010 participants and 46 open label extension with 11,954 participants were included in this review. Four CCTs were found and analyzed with the RCT data. The median duration of the RCTs was six months and the majority of the RCTs assessed etanercept or infliximab in people with RA or cancer.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AGENTS COMPARED TO CONTROLS FROM CLINICAL TRIAL DATA

Note: Except when results were statistically different the 95% confidence interval around the pooled effect includes both no effect and appreciable benefit or harm.

- The rate of serious adverse events, serious infections, lymphoma, and congestive heart failure were not statistically significantly different between biologics and control treatment.
- Certolizumab pegol was associated with significantly higher risk of serious infections compared to control treatment (OR 3.51, 95% CI 1.59 to 7.79; NNTH = 17, 95% CI 7 to 68).

SERIOUS INFECTIONS CZP COMPARED TO CONTROLS

Intervention	Comparison	Risk Comparator	Risk With Agent (95% CI)	Relative Effect	N	Quality Rating (GRADE)	NNH (95% CI)
CZP	Control	26 per 1000	86 per 1000 (41 to 172)	OR 3.51 (95% CI 1.59 to 7.79)	1929 (4 studies)	Moderate	17 (7 to 68)

- Certolizumab pegol was associated with significantly higher odds of serious infections compared to ADA, ETN, GLM and IFX: etanercept (OR 3.32, 95% CI 1.43 to 7.75), adalimumab (OR 3.15, 95%CI 1.31 to 7.52), infliximab (OR 2.42, 95% CI 1.05 to 5.60)

SUMMARY OF INDIRECT COMPARISONS OF AGENTS OF INTEREST

Agent	Comparator	Odds Ratio (95% CI)
ADA*	CZP	0.32 (95% CI 0.13 to 0.76)
CZP*	ETN	3.32 (95% CI 0.1.43 to 7.75)
CZP*	GLM	2.73 (95% CI 1.04 to 7.13)
CZP*	IFX	2.42 (95% CI 1.05 to 5.60)
CZP*	Placebo	3.51 (95% CI 1.59 to 7.79)

*Statistically significant

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- Infliximab was associated with significantly higher risk of withdrawals due to adverse events compared to control (OR 2.04, 95% CI 1.43 to 2.91; NNTH = 12, 95% CI 8 to 28).

RISK OF WITHDRAWAL DUE TO ADVERSE EVENTS: IFX COMPARED TO CONTROLS

Intervention	Comparison	Risk Comparator	Risk With Agent (95% CI)	Relative Effect (95% CI)	N	Quality Rating (GRADE)	NNH (95% CI)
IFX	Control	98 per 1000	181 per 1000 (134 to 240)	OR 2.04 (1.43 to 2.91)	7559 (33 studies)	Moderate	12 (8 to 28)

- ADA, ETN and GLM were significantly less likely than IFX to result in withdrawals due to adverse events. Compared to infliximab, adalimumab (OR 0.50, 95% CI 0.32 to 0.78), etanercept (OR 0.63, 95% CI 0.41 to 0.95), and golimumab (OR 0.55, 95% CI 0.30 to 0.99) were associated with significantly fewer withdrawals due to adverse events.

INDIRECT COMPARISONS: WITHDRAWALS DUE TO ADVERSE EVENTS

Agent	Comparator	Odds Ratio	Lower Confidence Interval	Higher Confidence Interval
adalimumab*	Infliximab	0.50	0.32	0.78
Etanercept*	Infliximab	0.63	0.41	0.95
Golimumab*	Infliximab	0.55	0.30	0.99
Infliximab*	Placebo	2.04	1.43	2.91

*Statistically significant

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

ST CLAIR 04_MAINI 99_WESTHOVENS 06_KLARESKOG 2004_BREEDVELD 06

Citations:

St Clair EW, van der Heijde DM, Smolen JS, Maini RN, Bathon JM, Emery P, Keystone E, Schiff M, Kalden JR, Wang B, Dewoody K, Weiss R, Baker D; Active-Controlled Study of Patients Receiving Infliximab for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis of Early Onset Study Group. Combination of infliximab and methotrexate therapy for early rheumatoid arthritis: a randomized, controlled trial. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2004 Nov;50(11):3432-43. PubMed PMID: 15529377.

Maini R, St Clair EW, Breedveld F, Furst D, Kalden J, Weisman M, Smolen J, Emery P, Harriman G, Feldmann M, Lipsky P. Infliximab (chimeric anti-tumour necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody) versus placebo in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving concomitant methotrexate: a randomised phase III trial. ATTRACT Study Group. *Lancet.* 1999 Dec 4;354(9194):1932-9. PubMed PMID: 10622295.

Westhovens R, Yocum D, Han J, Berman A, Strusberg I, Geusens P, Rahman MU; START Study Group. The safety of infliximab, combined with background treatments, among patients with rheumatoid arthritis and various comorbidities: a large, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2006 Apr;54(4):1075-86. Erratum in: *Arthritis Rheum.* 2007 May;56(5):1675. Dosage error in article text. PubMed PMID: 16572442.

Klareskog L, van der Heijde D, de Jager JP, Gough A, Kalden J, Malaise M, Martín Mola E, Pavelka K, Sany J, Settas L, Wajdula J, Pedersen R, Fatenejad S, Sanda M; TEMPO (Trial of Etanercept and Methotrexate with Radiographic Patient Outcomes) study investigators. Therapeutic effect of the combination of etanercept and methotrexate compared with each treatment alone in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: double-blind randomised controlled trial. *Lancet.* 2004 Feb 28;363(9410):675-81. PubMed PMID: 15001324.

Breedveld FC, Emery P, Keystone E, Patel K, Furst DE, Kalden JR, St Clair EW, Weisman M, Smolen J, Lipsky PE, Maini RN. Infliximab in active early rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2004 Feb;63(2):149-55. PubMed PMID: 14722203; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1754899.

Study Designs: RCTs

Manufacturer Involvement:

St Claire 04: Statistical design and data analysis

Maini 99: funded by Centocor, one author employed by Centocor

Westhovens 06:

Kareskog 04: Wyeth Research sponsored this trial as a postapproval commitment to the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products. The sponsor was responsible for the collection and analysis of data.

Breedveld 06: Funded by Abbott Laboratories.

Abstracts: Not included

Reviewer Comments

#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per PTYR)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
1	St Clair 2004(ASPIRE) Months: 12 N: 1004 Age: ~50 Duration: ~0.9 yrs % DMARD Naive: ~67 % on steroids: ~38 % on NSAIDs: ~84 HAQ score: 1.5	Placebo+ MTX IFX 3 mg/Kg 8 weekly + MTX IFX 6 mg/Kg 8 weekly + MTX	PNEUMONIA: 0 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: 0 LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 0 DEMYELINATING: NR DEATH: 2 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (3.2) SERIOUS INFECTIONS (2.1%) PNEUMONIA: 8 (2) TB: 3 (0.8) INFUSION RXN: 2 (0.5) LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 0 DEMYELINATING: NR DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (9.5) SERIOUS INFECTIONS: 21 (5.6) P=0.02 PNEUMONIA: 11 (3) TB: 1 (0.3) INFUSION RXN: 2 (0.5) LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 4 (1) DEMYELINATING: NR	Generation Sequence: Yes Concealment Alloc: Yes Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/ Assessors N Safety MTX: 291/298 N Safety IFX: 749/751	Placebo+ MTX vs IFX + MTX. Higher withdrawal due to adverse event in IFX +MTX group 9.6% .vs 3.2%; higher rates TB in IFX+MTX group, 6% vs 0; no P-value; higher rate serious infections in IFX + MTX group, 5% vs 2.1%, P = 0.04.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per PTYR)	Validity	Reviewer Comments																																																									
			DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: (9.6) SERIOUS INFECTIONS:19 (5) P=0.04																																																											
2.	Maini 1999 Months:~7 N:428 Age: ~54 Duration: ~10 yrs Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: ~60 % on NSAIDs: ~73 HAQ score:~1.7	Placebo + MTX IFX 3mg/kg to 10mg/kg + MTX	PNEUMONIA: NR TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: 0 LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY: 0 DEMYELINATING: NR DEATH: 3 (3) WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 7(8) SERIOUS INFECTION: 5 (6) PNEUMONIA: NR TB: 1 INFUSION RXN: 2 LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:4 DEMYELINATING: NR DEATH: 2 (0.6) WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 6(7) SERIOUS INFECTION: 14 (4)	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/Assessors N Safety Placebo + MTX: 86/88 N Safety IFX + MTX: 340/342	Similar adverse event rates; may be underpowered to show differences.																																																									
3.	Westhovens 2006 (START) Months:6 for placebo + MTX vs IFX N:1084 Age: ~52 Duration: ~7.5 yrs Incomplete responders to MTX % on steroids: 59 % on NSAIDs: ~40 HAQ score:~1.5	Placebo + MTX IFX 3mg/kg-10mg/kg q 8 weeks + MTX	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>PNEUMONIA</td> <td>Week 22</td> <td>Week 54 (IFX Only)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TB</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INFUSION RXN:</td> <td>NR</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LYMPHOMA</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MALIGNANCY</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEMYELINATING</td> <td>NR</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEATH</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE</td> <td>8 (2.2)</td> <td>8 (2.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SERIOUS INFECTION</td> <td>6 (1.7)</td> <td>6 (1.7)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PNEUMONIA</td> <td>6 (0.8)</td> <td>12 (1.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TB</td> <td>3 (0.4)</td> <td>4 (0.4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INFUSION RXN</td> <td>NR</td> <td>195 (2.6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LYMPHOMA</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MALIGNANCY</td> <td>NR</td> <td>28((2.8)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEMYELINATING</td> <td>NR</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEATH</td> <td>NR</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE</td> <td>31 (4.3)</td> <td>49(4.9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SERIOUS INFECTION</td> <td>24 (3.3)</td> <td>31(3)</td> </tr> </table>	PNEUMONIA	Week 22	Week 54 (IFX Only)	TB	0	0	INFUSION RXN:	NR	NR	LYMPHOMA	0	0	MALIGNANCY	2	2	DEMYELINATING	NR	NR	DEATH	1	1	WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE	8 (2.2)	8 (2.2)	SERIOUS INFECTION	6 (1.7)	6 (1.7)	<hr/>			PNEUMONIA	6 (0.8)	12 (1.2)	TB	3 (0.4)	4 (0.4)	INFUSION RXN	NR	195 (2.6)	LYMPHOMA	1	1	MALIGNANCY	NR	28((2.8)	DEMYELINATING	NR	NR	DEATH	NR	4	WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE	31 (4.3)	49(4.9)	SERIOUS INFECTION	24 (3.3)	31(3)	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/Assessors N Safety Placebo + MTX: 361/361 (22 wks) N Safety IFX + MTX: 721/721 (22wks) No placebo group at week 54 N Safety IFX + MTX: 1001/1082	Increased serious infection in IFX group; may be underpowered to show differences.
PNEUMONIA	Week 22	Week 54 (IFX Only)																																																												
TB	0	0																																																												
INFUSION RXN:	NR	NR																																																												
LYMPHOMA	0	0																																																												
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SERIOUS INFECTION	6 (1.7)	6 (1.7)																																																												
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SERIOUS INFECTION	24 (3.3)	31(3)																																																												
4.	Klareskog 2004 (TEMPO) Months:24 N:682 Age: ~53 Duration: ~7 years Incomplete responders to DMARDs % on steroids: ~60 % on NSAIDs:~ 87 HAQ score:1.8	MTX; N=228 ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly; N=223 ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly + MTX; N=231	PNEUMONIA: NR TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:NR MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 32 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10 (4%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 4 (2%) PNEUMONIA: 0 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1 MALIGNANCY:4 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 25 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10 (4%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE:46 (21%) PNEUMONIA: 1 TB:0 INFUSION RXN:NR LYMPHOMA:1	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: Centralized telephone Blinding: Stated double-blind; no details N Safety MTX: 228/228 N Safety ETN:223/223 N Safety ETN +MTX: 231/231	MTX vs ETN 25mg sc. twice weekly; increased reaction at injection site, no P-value provided																																																									

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

#	Ref and Study Details	Interventions	Outcomes (% or incidence rate per 100 patient-years or events per PTYR)	Validity	Reviewer Comments
			MALIGNANCY:1 DEMYELINATING:0 DEATH:1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 24 SERIOUS INFECTION: 10 (4%) REACTIONS AT INJECTION SITE: 23 (10%)		
5.	Breedveld 2006 (PREMIER) Months: 24 N:799 Age: ~52 Duration:~ 1 yr % DMARD Naive: ~68 % on steroids: ~36 % on NSAIDs: NR HAQ score: ~1.55	MTX ADA 40mg sc. 2 weekly ADA 40mg sc. 2 weekly +MTX	PNEUMONIA: 2 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: [0.2] MALIGNANCY:[0.9] DEMYELINAGING: 0 DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 19 (7.4); P=0.21 SERIOUS INFECTION:[1.6] PNEUMONIA: 0 TB: 0 INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY:[0.9] DEMYELINAGING: 0 DEATH: 4 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 26 (9.5); P=0.21 OTHER: SERIOUS INFECTION:[0.7] PNEUMONIA: 0 TB: [0.2] INFUSION RXN: NR LYMPHOMA: 0 MALIGNANCY:[0.4] DEMYELINAGING: 0 DEATH: 1 WITHDRAWAL ADVERSE: 32 (11.9); P=0.21 SERIOUS INFECTION:[2.9];P<0.05	Generation Sequence: No details Concealment Alloc: No details Blinding: Yes: Subjects/Invest/Assessors N Safety MTX: 257/257 N Safety ADA:274/274 N Safety ADA + MTX: 268/268 ITT: Yes (extreme case analysis)	3 arms; MTX vs ADA 40mg sc. 2 weekly vs ADA 40mg sc. 2 weekly +MTX; higher withdrawal due to adverse events in ADA group compared to MTX group 10.7% vs 7.4%; P=0.21.

Reviewer Comments

- Underpowered to reliably demonstrate safety differences in groups if one existed.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

TAN META UST 10

Citation: Tan JY, Li S, Yang K, Ma B, Chen W, Zha C, Zhang J. Ustekinumab, a human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody, in patients with psoriasis: a meta-analysis. J Dermatolog Treat. 2010 Oct 5. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20923370.

Study Design: Meta-analysis

Manufacturer Involvement: None reported

Abstract: Not included

Reference	Population and N	Intervention	Safety Results	Reviewer Comments
Tan 10	Psoriasis N=2316	UST 45mg and 90mg versus placebo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no statistically significant difference in rates of serious AEs including infection compared to placebo in the UST 45mg group and 90 mg group with respective relative risks of 1.17 (95% CI 0.98 to 1.38) and 1.06 (95% CI 0.89 to 1.27). Injection site reactions not reported 	High likelihood of being underpowered to detect difference

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

THALER SR INJECTION RXN ETN ADA 09 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Thaler 09

Citation: Thaler K, Chandiramani DV, Hansen RA, Gartlehner G. Efficacy and safety of anakinra for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: an update of the Oregon Drug Effectiveness Review Project. *Biologics*. 2009;3:485-98. Epub 2009 Dec 29. PubMed PMID: 20054439.

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement: None

Abstract: not included

Reviewer Comments

- For safety, both experimental and observational studies were eligible. Two persons independently reviewed abstracts and full text articles and extracted relevant data.
- Searched Medline to April 2009.
- Authors calculated crude incidence of injection site reactions (7 ADA studies, 4 ETN studies: adalimumab (17.5%, 95%CI 7.1 to 27.9) and etanercept (22.4%, 95% CI 8.5 to 36.3).

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

TSIODRAS fungal 3 drugs 08 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Tsiodras 08

Citation: Tsiodras S, Samonis G, Boumpas DT, Kontoyiannis DP. Fungal infections complicating tumor necrosis factor alpha blockade therapy. *Mayo Clin Proc* 2008 Feb;83(2):181-94. PMID: 18241628

Study Type: Review of reports of invasive fungal infections (IFIs) associated with IFX, ADA, ETN

Manufacture Involvement: No mention.

Abstract

Tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) blockade has emerged as a useful therapy for collagen vascular diseases or graft-vs-host disease. Fungal infections complicating such therapy have been reported sporadically. MEDLINE and PubMed databases (from January 1, 1966, to June 1, 2007) were searched for reports of invasive fungal infections (IFIs) associated with the 3 available anti-TNF- α agents, ie, infliximab, etanercept, and adalimumab.

Of the 281 cases of IFI associated with TNF- α inhibition, 226 (80%) were associated with infliximab, 44 (16%) with etanercept, and 11 (4%) with adalimumab. Fungal infections associated with infliximab occurred a median of 55 days (interquartile range [IQR], 15-140 days) after initiation of therapy and 3 infusions of the medication (IQR, 2-5), whereas those associated with etanercept occurred a median of 144 days (IQR, 46-240 days) after initiation of therapy. The median age of patients was 58 years (IQR, 44-68 years), and 62% were male. Use of at least 1 other immunosuppressant medication, typically a systemic corticosteroid, was reported during the course of the fungal infection in 102 (98%) of the 104 patients for whom data were available. The most prevalent IFIs were histoplasmosis (n=84 [30%]), candidiasis (n=64 [23%]), and aspergillosis (n=64 [23%]). Pneumonia was the most common pattern of infection. Of the 90 (32%) of 281 cases for which outcome information was available, 29 fatalities (32%) were recorded.

Tumor necrosis factor α blockade is associated with IFI across a range of host groups. A high index of suspicion in patients treated with TNF- α antagonists is recommended because the course of such infections can be serious or fulminant, and rapid access to health care should be provided. Surveillance of IFIs complicating TNF- α blockade and other biologic therapies is warranted through well-organized prospective patient registries.

Reviewer Comments

- Included case series, letters, postmarketing data.
- Populations were heterogeneous and included patients not treated for RA, PsA or psoriasis.
- Subject to selection, performance, reporting biases.
- Aspergillosis: Authors found 64 reported cases of aspergillosis associated with the use of TNF-[alpha] antagonists. 48 (75%) were associated with infliximab, 14 (22%) with etanercept, and 2 (3%) with adalimumab. Of the 24 cases for which data were available, 18 patients (75%) had received a TNF-[alpha] antagonist for graft versus host disease (GVHD) following allogeneic bone marrow transplant for hematologic malignancy, 2 (8%) for inflammatory bowel disease, and 4 (17%) for rheumatoid arthritis. One of the patients had evidence of coinfection with PCP and *Candida* species. All but 1 of the patients were exposed to other immunosuppressant medications, such as corticosteroids or methotrexate.
- Candida Infections: Of 64 identified cases of *Candida* infection associated with TNF-[alpha] antagonist therapy, 54 (84%) were associated with infliximab, 9 (14%) with etanercept, and 1 (2%) with adalimumab. The pattern of underlying disease was GVHD in 11 of 18 cases (5, *Candida glabrata*; 5, other species; all but 1 received infliximab), inflammatory bowel disease in 5 cases, and rheumatoid arthritis in 2 cases.
- Cryptococcus: Twenty-eight cases of *Cryptococcus* infection associated with TNF-[alpha] blockade were identified: 17 (61%) associated with infliximab, 10 (36%) with etanercept, and 1 (3%) with adalimumab. Of 8 patients with data available for review, 6 with rheumatoid arthritis had received infliximab after a median of 3 infusions (IQR, 3-10).
- Tinea and Pityriasis: Three tinea corporis and 3 pityriasis versicolor cases of patients receiving anti-TNF-[alpha] inhibitors, in which 13 of the 35 had new onset of cutaneous infections. Three patients had received infliximab (range of infusions, 2-7; all for ankylosing spondylitis), 1 etanercept (for rheumatoid arthritis), and 2 adalimumab (range of infusions, 26-36; both for rheumatoid arthritis).
- Coccidioidomycosis: Authors found 29 cases of coccidioidomycosis: 27 (93%) were associated with infliximab and 2 (7%) with etanercept. All patients were concomitantly taking either corticosteroids or methotrexate. All had pneumonia, and 4 had evidence of disseminated infection.
- Histoplasmosis: Authors identified 84 cases of histoplasmosis: 72 (86%) were associated with infliximab, 8 (10%) with etanercept, and 4 (5%) with adalimumab. Most cases for which data were available occurred in areas endemic for the fungus, and all patients received concomitant immunosuppressant medication.
- Of the entire group of 281 patients who developed fungal infection in association with TNF-[alpha] blockade, 226 (80%) had received infliximab; 44 (16%), etanercept; and 11 (4%), adalimumab.
- Histoplasmosis (n = 84), candidiasis (n = 64), and aspergillosis (n = 64) were the most frequently observed fungal infections.
- One hundred two of the 104 (98%) patients for whom data were available received at least 1 other immunomodulating

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

medication (eg, corticosteroids, methotrexate) during the course of the fungal infection.

- Potentially weak signal of increased fungal infection rates with IFX

Key points

- Of 281 cases of IFX obtained in a search of PubMed and MEDLINE databases (based on National Library of Medicine filing dates from January 1, 1966, to June 1, 2007), 226 cases (80%) were associated with IFX, 44 (16%) with ETN, and 11 (4%) with ADA. Histoplasmosis (n = 84), candidiasis (n = 64), and aspergillosis (n = 64) were the most frequently observed fungal infections in the study.
- The authors identified 84 cases of histoplasmosis: 72 (86%) were associated with IFX, 8 (10%) with ETN, and 4 (5%) with ADA. Most cases for which data were available occurred in areas endemic for the fungus, and all patients received concomitant immunosuppressant medication.
- Candida Infections: 64 of cases of Candida infection were identified in patients receiving TNFI therapy. 54 (84%) were associated with IFX, 9 (14%) with ETN, and 1 (2%) with ADA.
- Aspergillosis: 64 cases of aspergillosis associated with the use of TNFIs were identified. 48 (75%) were associated with IFX, 14 (22%) with ETN, and 2 (3%) with ADA. All but one of the patients were exposed to other immunosuppressant medications, such as corticosteroids or methotrexate.
- Cryptococcus Infections: 28 cases of Cryptococcus infection associated with TNFIs were identified. 17 (61%) were associated with IFX, 10 (36%) with ETN, and 1 (3%) with ADA. Of 8 patients with data available for review, 6 with rheumatoid arthritis had received IFX after a median of 3 infusions (interquartile range (IQR) 3-10).
- There were 3 tinea corporis and 3 pityriasis versicolor cases of patients receiving anti-TNF-[alpha] inhibitors, in which 13 of the 35 had new onset of cutaneous infections. Three patients had received IFX (range of infusions, 2-7; all for ankylosing spondylitis), 1 ETN (for rheumatoid arthritis), and 2 ADA (range of infusions, 26-36; both for rheumatoid arthritis).
- Coccidioidomycosis: 29 cases were identified. 27 (93%) were associated with IFX and 2 (7%) were associated with ETN. All patients were concomitantly taking either corticosteroids or MTX. All had pneumonia, and 4 had evidence of disseminated infection.
- Of the entire group of 281 patients who developed fungal infection in association with TNF-[alpha] blockade, 226 (80%) had received IFX; 44 (16%), ETN; and 11 (4%), ADA.
- One hundred and two of the 104 (98%) patients for whom data were available received at least 1 other immunomodulating medication (e.g., corticosteroids, MTX) during the course of the fungal infection.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

TUBACH 09_Registry_French_TB_3Agents_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Tubach 09

Citation: Tubach F, Salmon D, Ravaud P, Allanore Y, Goupille P, Bréban M, Pallot-Prades B, Pouplin S, Sacchi A, Chichemanian RM, Bretagne S, Emilie D, Lemann M, Lortholary O, Mariette X; Research Axed on Tolerance of Biotherapies Group. Risk of tuberculosis is higher with anti-tumor necrosis factor monoclonal antibody therapy than with soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor therapy: The three-year prospective French Research Axed on Tolerance of Biotherapies registry. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2009 Jul;60(7):1884-94. Erratum in: *Arthritis Rheum.* 2009 Aug;60(8):2540. Lortholary, O [corrected to Lortholary, O]. PubMed PMID: 19565495.

Study Type: Registry Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: Authors have received consultancy fees from relevant manufacturers which had no role in the study. The RATIO Registry support includes unrestricted industry grant funding from mixed sources.

Abstract

OBJECTIVE

Tuberculosis (TB) is associated with anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF) monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy, but whether this association is drug-specific remains a concern. Our objective was to describe cases of TB associated with anti-TNF mAb therapy, identify risk factors, and estimate the incidence.

METHODS

We conducted an incidence study and a case-control analysis to investigate the risk of newly diagnosed TB associated with the use of anti-TNF agents. As part of the French Research Axed on Tolerance of Biotherapies (RATIO) registry, for 3 years we collected cases of TB among French patients receiving anti-TNF mAb therapy for **any indication**; for each case, 2 patients treated with anti-TNF agents served as control subjects.

RESULTS

We collected 69 cases of TB in patients treated for rheumatoid arthritis (n = 40), spondylarthritides (n = 18), inflammatory colitis (n = 9), psoriasis (n = 1) and Behçet's disease (n = 1) with infliximab (n = 36), adalimumab (n = 28), and etanercept (n = 5). None of the patients had received correct chemoprophylactic treatment. The sex- and age-adjusted incidence rate of TB was 116.7 per 100,000 patient-years. The standardized incidence ratio (SIR) was 12.2 (95% confidence interval [95% CI] 9.7-15.5) and was higher for therapy with infliximab and adalimumab than for therapy with etanercept (SIR 18.6 [95% CI 13.4-25.8] and SIR 29.3 [95% CI 20.3-42.4] versus SIR 1.8 [95% CI 0.7-4.3], respectively). In the case-control analysis, exposure to infliximab or adalimumab versus etanercept was an independent risk factor for TB (odds ratio [OR] 13.3 [95% CI 2.6-69.0] and OR 17.1 [95% CI 3.6-80.6], respectively). Other risk factors were age, the first year of anti-TNF mAb treatment, and being born in an endemic area.

CONCLUSION

The risk of TB is higher for patients receiving anti-TNF mAb therapy than for those receiving soluble TNF receptor therapy. The increased risk with early anti-TNF treatment and the absence of correct chemoprophylactic treatment favor the reactivation of latent TB.

Notes on the Setting

French guidelines, in 2002, recommended anti-TB chemoprophylaxis before all anti-TNF mAb therapy for patients presenting with at least 1 of the following: diameter of tuberculin skin test reaction 10 mm (revised to 5 mm in July 2005), abnormal chest radiography results with calcifications >1 cm, previous untreated exposure to TB, or episode of TB. Correct chemoprophylaxis was defined as a 9-month course of treatment with isoniazide or a 3-month course of treatment with 2 anti-TB drugs, including rifampin.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, , infliximab in any indication
- Registry described as prospective and mandatory for the purpose of collecting all cases of TB in French patients receiving anti-TNF therapy, regardless of indication from February 2004 through 2006. Multiple mailings and reminders encouraged physicians to report cases.
- There is a risk of missed cases in the registry. In Tubach 09, authors state they make the assumption that reporting was equal between agents. Differences in care experiences between agents could confound results.
- Cases were also obtained from the French national public surveillance system that monitors TB via mandatory reporting.
- An expert committee comprising 3 experts on TB (DS, SB, and OL) validated cases by consensus on the basis of the detailed standardized case report form and additional documents.
- For patients who received >1 anti-TNF agent, authors addressed exposure as follows: first anti-TNF agent, last anti-TNF agent, and any use of the anti-TNF agent in sensitivity analyses.
- French population was used as reference.
- Anti-TNF manufacturers obtained estimation of patient years based on number of doses sold and mean dosage used for each indication. The mean of these different estimates was used to estimate number of patients receiving each anti-TNF agent.
- Authors conducted sensitivity analyses using independent data from the French health insurance fund for self-employed workers (5%

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

of population) for information on use of etanercept and adalimumab.

- Surveys were also used for information on patients receiving etanercept and adalimumab.
- Information was missing for infliximab.
- Population for comparison was selected from TB-free registry patients receiving anti-TNF treatment. 2 controls per case were randomly and matched by sex and underlying inflammatory disease (age was not listed as a matching criterion). Another control per case was chosen, adding time from onset of anti-TNF treatment as another matching criterion.

TB In 68 Patients Receiving Biologic Agents Compared To 136 Control Subjects Without TB Receiving Anti-TNF Therapy RATIO French Registry (Tubach 09)

Last anti-TNF Agent Received	Odds Ratio	P-Value
ETN	1	n/a
ADA	17.08 (95% CI 3.62 to 80.59)	<0.001
IFX	13.29 (95% CI 2.56 to 69.04)	0.002

Risk of TB by Biologic Agent Standardized Incidence Ratios (SIR) of IFX, ADA and Odds Ratio of IFX and ADA Versus ETN (Tubach 09)

Agent	N	SIR with French Population as Reference	Odds Ratio of Agent Compared to ETN
Only IFX	34	18.6 (95% CI 13.4 to 25.8)	13.3 (95% CI 2.6 to 69.0)
Only ADA	23	29.3 (95% CI 20.3 to 42.4)	17.1 (95% CI 3.6 to 80.6)
Only ETN	1	1.8 (95% CI 0.7 to 4.3)	Reference agent
All Anti-TNF	69	12.2 (95% CI 9.7 to 15.5)	Not reported

- Authors state a limitation of the study was that the denominator was estimated. Per Tubach 09, anti-TNF manufacturers obtained estimation of patient years based on number of doses sold and mean dosage used for each indication. The mean of these different estimates was used to estimate number of patients receiving each anti-TNF agent. Authors report that sensitivity analyses using independent sources gave consistent adjusted incidents rates and standardized incidence ratios (SIRs). Also, they used different estimates from different sources in sensitivity analyses and received consistent results.

In the French registry study (Tubach 09), investigators conducted an incidence study and case-control analysis to determine the risk of newly diagnosed TB associated with the use of monoclonal anti-TNF agents received for any indication. Data from the French Research Axed on Tolerance of Biotherapies (RATIO) registry was used. For the incidence study the investigators estimated the annual incidence rate of TB in patients treated with anti-TNF mAb therapy, adjusted for age and sex, with the French population used as the reference. Data was prospectively collected for all cases of TB occurring from February 1, 2004 to January 1, 2007 in patients who were receiving anti-TNF monoclonal antibody therapy. In the case-control study for each case of TB occurring in patients receiving IFX or ADA, 2 patients treated with anti-TNF agents served as control subjects. 75 cases of TB were identified, and 69 cases were validated. Investigators identified 69 cases of TB in patients treated for rheumatoid arthritis (n = 40), spondylarthritides (n =18), inflammatory colitis (n =9), psoriasis (n =1) and Behcet's disease (n =1) with infliximab (n =36), adalimumab (n =28), and etanercept (n =5). Among the 58 patients receiving only 1 anti-TNF agent, 34 (58.6%) had received infliximab, 23 (39.7%) had received adalimumab, and 1 (1.7%) had received etanercept. The standardized incidence ratios (SIR) and odds ratios were reported. The authors conclude that the risk of TB is higher for patients receiving anti-TNF monoclonal antibody therapy than for those receiving soluble TNF receptor therapy. They also state that the numerous registries set up in numerous countries to investigate the safety of anti-TNF agents set up after the FDA alert regarding the risk of TB associated with the use of infliximab with the exception of the French registry are cohort studies involving only a part of the population of focus and thus are not powered enough to demonstrate very rare events or investigate a difference in risk depending on the anti-TNF agent used, nor are the randomized controlled trials. The authors point out that in the earlier registry reports extremely small numbers are used for the calculations. For example, in an early British registry report the incidence of TB was 1.5 per 1,000 patient-years with infliximab and 0.5 per 1,000 patient-years with etanercept, but the numbers of cases were only 7 and 2, respectively (Dixon 06). In the Swedish registry, the incidence rates were 1.5 per 1,000 patient-years with infliximab and 0.8 per 1,000 patient-years with etanercept; 9 cases were treated with infliximab alone, and 4 cases were treated with etanercept alone (Asking 05). And in the Korean report, 2 cases of TB were observed among 90 patients receiving infliximab, and no case was observed among 103 patients receiving etanercept (Seong 07). The investigators conclude that difference in risk between the types of anti-TNF agents was only suggested in these earlier registry studies, but was clearly demonstrated in the RATIO registry.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

WEINBLATT OPPORTUNISTIC SAFETY ETN 10 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Weinblatt 10

Citation: Weinblatt ME, Bathon JM, Kremer JM, Fleischmann RM, Schiff MH, Martin RW, Baumgartner SW, Park GS, Mancini EL, Genovese MC. Safety and efficacy of etanercept beyond 10 years of therapy in North American patients with early and long-standing rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2010 Oct 18. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20957659.

Study Type: Review of reports obtained from searches of MEDLINE and PubMed (from January 1, 1966, to June 1, 2007) focusing on invasive fungal infections (IFIs) associated with the 3 available anti-TNF-[alpha] agents, ie, infliximab, etanercept, and adalimumab.

Manufacture Involvement: No information

Abstract

Objective. To evaluate long-term safety and efficacy of etanercept therapy in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients.

Methods. Adult patients with early RA (ERA) or long-standing RA (LRA) received etanercept in open-label extension studies following initial double-blind trials of etanercept.

Results. Of 558 ERA and 714 LRA patients who received at least 1 dose of etanercept, a total of 194 ERA and 217 LRA patients were treated with 25 mg etanercept twice weekly through 10 years. Five opportunistic infections were reported: in ERA, 1 *Candida* septicemia; in LRA, 1 herpes zoster, 1 atypical mycobacterium infection, 1 meningoencephalitis (unspecified), and 1 fungal sepsis (unspecified). Twenty-nine cases of sepsis occurred (10, ERA; 19, LRA). Occurrence of all malignancies was similar to that expected in the general population, but the occurrence of lymphomas was higher than expected in the general population. Fourteen lymphomas (7, ERA; 7, LRA) and 2 cases of demyelinating disease (1, ERA; 1, LRA) were reported. Deaths occurred in 18 ERA patients and 43 LRA patients. Both patient groups showed sustained improvement in American College of Rheumatology responses, swollen joint counts, Health Assessment Questionnaire scores, and C-reactive protein levels.

Conclusion. Etanercept maintained therapeutic benefits beyond 10 years of therapy in both ERA and LRA patients, suggesting that etanercept is well tolerated and effective as a long-term, continuous therapy for the treatment of RA with a favorable risk-benefit ratio.

Reviewer Comments

- The primary objective of the extension studies was to evaluate the long-term safety of etanercept in patients with early RA (ERA) or moderate to severe longstanding RA (LRA).
- The definition of OI was based on that provided for patients with human immunodeficiency virus by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wonder online database (1992).
- ERA and LRA patients were required to receive 25 mg BIW in the extension study. A total of 632 patients were enrolled in the ERA parent study (415 etanercept patients and 217 MTX patients). Of these, 468 patients continued in the extension study and received etanercept 25 mg BIW. 581 LRA patients entered the extension study. A total of 558 ERA patients (415 original etanercept patients plus 143 of the 217 original MTX patients) and 714 LRA patients received at least 1 dose of etanercept in either the parent or long-term extension study and were included in the safety analysis.
- The exposure adjusted rate of SIEs per 100 patient-years was 2.6 for ERA patients (0.026 events/patient year) and 4.4 for LRA patients (0.044 events/patient year).
- No cases of tuberculosis were observed. An opportunistic infection (OI) of *Candida* septicemia was reported in 1 ERA patient who was hospitalized with pneumococcal pneumonia, sepsis, and respiratory failure. 1 month later, bronchial lavage showed *Candida*.
- Four infections considered OIs were reported in LRA patients: 1 herpes zoster, 1 atypical mycobacterium infection, 1 meningoencephalitis (unspecified) > 30 days past last dose date, and 1 fungal sepsis (unspecified) > 30 days past last dose date.
- The exposure-adjusted rates of SIEs (0.03 events/patient year for ERA patients and 0.04 events/patient year for LRA patients) are similar to the rates observed in the Olmsted County, MN RA cohort (0.10 events/patient year) and to the control and etanercept groups of controlled phases of the studies.
- Authors state that this is the longest prospective study of anti-TNF therapy to date with some patients receiving over 10 years of treatment.
- Open-label extension studies following initial double-blind trials of ETN the authors reported finding 5 opportunistic infections in 1,272 patients with RA.
- The authors found 1,272 patients (558 ERA and 714 LRA patients) who had received at least one dose of ETN.
- A total of 194 ERA and 217 LRA patients were treated with 25 mg ETN twice weekly through 10 years.
- Five opportunistic infections were reported: 1 *Candida* septicemia, 1 herpes zoster, 1 atypical mycobacterium infection, 1 meningoencephalitis (unspecified) and 1 fungal sepsis (unspecified).

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

WIENS CRITIQUE SR adal inflix etan 10_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Wiens 10

Citation: Wiens A, Venson R, Correr CJ, Otuki MF, Pontarolo R. Meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Pharmacotherapy* 2010 Apr;30(4):339-53. PMID: 20334454

Study Type: SR and Meta-analysis

Manufacture Involvement: None

Abstract

Study Objective. To evaluate the efficacy and safety of using the anti-tumor necrosis factor drugs adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. **Design.** Systematic review and meta-analysis of 21 randomized, placebo controlled trials (eight adalimumab, seven infliximab, six etanercept). **Patients.** Adults with rheumatoid arthritis who received adalimumab (1524 patients), infliximab (1116 patients), etanercept (1029 patients), or placebo (2834 patients) with or without concomitant methotrexate in all groups. **Measurements and Main Results.** A literature search of several databases from **January 1995–December 2008** was performed. There were no restrictions based on language or date of publication, and low-quality studies (based on Jadad score) were excluded. Safety was compared based on frequency of **serious adverse events, serious infections, malignancy, and death.** Withdrawals due to adverse events and lack of efficacy were also evaluated. **Safety Results.** No statistically significant differences were noted in the safety of any of the three drugs compared with placebo. Infliximab had the highest RRs for withdrawing from the study due to adverse events (2.05, 95% CI 1.33–3.16). **Conclusion.** Clinicians should be aware that each of the three drugs has different rates of efficacy and different safety considerations that must be taken into account when selecting the best treatment for an individual with rheumatoid arthritis. (Pharmacotherapy 2010;30(4):339–353)

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, , infliximab, in RA
- Compared agents to placebo with or without MTX.
- Prespecified Safety Outcomes: Serious adverse events (those adverse events that required prolonged hospitalization, led to the risk of death, resulted in death, or were classified as serious by the investigator), serious infections (infections that required treatment with parenteral antibiotics or led to hospitalization or the risk of death), cancer, lymphoma, death. Withdrawals due to adverse events and lack of efficacy were also evaluated.
- Search dates: January 1995–December 2008
- Included randomized, placebo controlled trials where usual dosages were used.
- Methodological quality by applying Jadad Scale: included trials with scores of 3-5 (Jadad 96). Jadad Scale ratings of 3 or higher do not assure that study quality is medium or high. The Jadad scale consists of three items for which points are awarded: randomization, double blinding, and reporting of withdrawals or dropouts. However, the scale does not address these items adequately. For instance, in the domain of randomization, the scale addresses the sequence generation, but not concealment of allocation of the sequence. Other methodological flaws are also not assessed when using the Jadad scale. For example, a low quality study found to have numerous flaws such as no concealment of allocation, a large number of dropouts that are well-described, a per-protocol analysis, and myriad other biases such as multiple differences in care delivered to the study groups could receive five points and be judged to be a study of the highest quality. The Jadad scale has therefore been criticized by several authors as being inadequate for assessing bias in RCTs (Juni 99, Lundh 08). Meta-analyses that employ the Jadad scale as the sole instrument for assessing quality may, therefore, include trials that are distorted by bias and confounding.
- After exclusions and appraisal yield was 21 trials— 8 ADA trials, 7 IFX trials, 6 ETN trials.
- Adequate search strategy— yielded 727 RCTs.
- Many trials with adequate randomization, blinding, retention of subjects.
- Conclusion: This meta-analysis of RCTs did not demonstrate statistically significant safety differences in serious adverse events, death, serious infections or malignancy with ADA, ETN or IFX compared to placebo with or without MTX. Most or all of the included clinical trials are likely to have been underpowered to reliably detect differences in safety outcomes of interest between groups if they existed. Even though this meta-analysis included included over 12,000 patients, the study was likely to have been underpowered to detect differences in the prespecified safety outcomes.

Note: A previous meta-analysis (Alonso-Ruiz 08) reported that patients treated with anti-TNF drugs demonstrated a significantly higher frequency of adverse events compared to placebo (RR 1.02 [95% CI 1.00 to 1.04]), which was not found in this study. In keeping with the Alonso-Ruiz metaanalysis, ADA and IFX, but not ETN, demonstrated statistically significant higher relative risk for withdrawal due to adverse events compared with the placebo group, but the group treated with etanercept had the RR favoring the placebo group (i.e., people in the placebo group dropped out of the studies due to adverse events in a higher frequency). For ADA the RR was 1.56 (95% CI 1.04 to 2.35). For IFX, the RR was 2.05 (95% CI 1.33 to 3.16). For ETN, the RR was 0.86 (95% CI 0.63 to 1.16) which is statistically insignificant. The Wien 10 meta-analysis, like the Alonso-Ruiz 08 meta-analysis, reported similar data regarding serious adverse events, malignancy, and deaths for the three biologic drugs compared with the placebo group, i.e., no statistically significant differences. Data

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

about serious infections were statistically significant, reporting a higher rate with IFX in the Alonso-Ruiz 08 meta-analysis. This finding differs from the Wien 10 meta-analysis which reported non-significant results for all the safety parameters when compared with the placebo group.

Primary Studies Included in Wien Review

Wien Ref No.	Citation									
3	Klareskog L, van der Heijde D, de Jager JP, Gough A, Kalden J, Malaise M, Martin Mola E, Pavelka K, Sany J, Settas L, Wajdula J, Pedersen R, Fatenejad S, Sanda M. Therapeutic effect of the combination of etanercept and methotrexate compared with each treatment alone in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: double-blind randomised controlled trial. <i>Lancet</i> 2004 Feb 28;363(9410):675-81.									
15	Emery P, Breedveld FC, Hall S, et al. Comparison of methotrexate monotherapy with a combination of methotrexate and etanercept in active, early, moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (COMET): a randomised, double-blind, parallel treatment trial. <i>Lancet</i> 2008;372:375-82.									
18	Keystone EC, Kavanaugh AF, Sharp JT, et al. Radiographic, clinical, and functional outcomes of treatment with adalimumab (a human anti-tumor necrosis factor monoclonal antibody) in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis receiving concomitant methotrexate therapy: a randomized, placebocontrolled, 52-week trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2004;50:1400-11.									
20	Weinblatt ME, Keystone EC, Furst DE, et al. Adalimumab, a fully human anti-tumor necrosis factor- α monoclonal antibody, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in patients taking concomitant methotrexate: the ARMADA trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2003;48:35-45.									
19	Kim HY, Lee SK, Song YW, Koh EM, Yoo B, Luo A. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III study of the human anti-tumor necrosis factor antibody adalimumab administered as subcutaneous injections in Korean rheumatoid arthritis patients treated with methotrexate. <i>APLAR J Rheumatol</i> 2007;10:9-16.									
21 (audit)	<p>Lipsky PE, van der Heijde DM, St Clair EW, et al, for the Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor Trial in Rheumatoid Arthritis with Concomitant Therapy Study Group. Infliximab and methotrexate in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2000;343:1594-602.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No details generation or concealment • Blinding: assessors, clinicians and patients blinded x 1 yr. Details of IV fluid blinding adequate. 1 year f/u • Randomized: 428 • Included in safety analysis: 428 • Serious infections: 8.5% • TB: 1 case • Pneumonia: 3 cases • Demyelinating: NR • Deaths 1.2% <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Category</th> <th style="text-align: center;">MTX + placebo; N=86/88</th> <th style="text-align: center;">IFX 3mg to 10mg every 4 or 8 wks +MTX; N=342/340</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Serious Events</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serious Infections</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	MTX + placebo; N=86/88	IFX 3mg to 10mg every 4 or 8 wks +MTX; N=342/340	Serious Events	21%	16.8%	Serious Infections	8%	6%
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Serious Events	21%	16.8%								
Serious Infections	8%	6%								
23	Maini R, St Clair EW, Breedveld F, et al, for the ATTRACT Study Group. Infliximab (chimeric anti-tumour necrosis factor- α monoclonal antibody) versus placebo in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving concomitant methotrexate: a randomised phase III trial. <i>Lancet</i> 1999;354:1932-9.									
25	Miyasaka N. Clinical investigation in highly disease-affected rheumatoid arthritis patients in Japan with adalimumab Maini R, St Clair EW, Breedveld F, et al, for the ATTRACT Study Group. Infliximab (chimeric anti-tumour necrosis factor- α monoclonal antibody) versus placebo in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving concomitant methotrexate: applying standard and general evaluation: the CHANGE study. <i>Mod Rheumatol</i> 2008;18:252-62.									
27	Furst DE, Schiff MH, Fleishmann RM, et al. Adalimumab, a fully human anti-tumor necrosis factor- α monoclonal antibody, and concomitant standard antirheumatic therapy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: results of STAR (safety trial of adalimumab in rheumatoid arthritis). <i>J Rheumatol</i> 2003;30: 2563-71.									
28	St Clair EW, van der Heijde DM, Smolen JS, et al. Combination of infliximab and methotrexate therapy for early rheumatoid arthritis: a randomized, controlled trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2004;50:3432-43.									
29	van de Putte LB, Atkins C, Malaise M, et al. Efficacy and safety of adalimumab as monotherapy in patients with rheumatoid arthritis for whom previous disease modifying antirheumatic drug treatment has failed. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2004;63:508-16.									
30 (audit)	<p>van de Putte LB, Rau R, Breedveld FC, et al. Efficacy and safety of the fully human anti-tumour necrosis factor-α monoclonal antibody adalimumab (D2E7) in DMARD refractory patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a 12 week, phase II study. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2003;62:1168-77.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No details regarding randomization, concealment of allocation or blinding. • Safety analysis included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 70/70 placebo; 72/72 80 mg; 70/70 40 mg; 71/72 20 mg. 									
31	van der Heijde D, Klareskog L, Landewe R, et al. Disease remission and sustained halting of radiographic progression									

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	with combination etanercept and methotrexate in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2007;56:3928–39.												
35	Zhang F-C, Hou Y, Huang F, et al. Infliximab versus placebo in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving concomitant methotrexate: a preliminary study from China. <i>APLAR J Rheumatol</i> 2006;9:127–30.												
38	Breedveld FC, Weisman MH, Kavanaugh AF, et al. The PREMIER study: a multicenter, randomized, double-blind clinical trial of van der Heijde D combination therapy with adalimumab plus methotrexate versus methotrexate alone or adalimumab alone in patients with early, aggressive rheumatoid arthritis who had not had previous methotrexate treatment. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006;54:26–37.												
41	Westhovens R, Yocum D, Han J, et al. The safety of infliximab, combined with background treatments, among patients with rheumatoid arthritis and various comorbidities: a large, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006; 54:1075–86.												
43 (audit)	<p>Schiff M, Keiserman M, Codding C, et al. Efficacy and safety of abatacept or infliximab vs placebo in ATTEST: a phase III, multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and an inadequate response to methotrexate. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2008;67:1096–103.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randomized: Placebo + MTX 110, Placebo + MTX165; all included in safety analysis. • Randomization: no details of generation of sequence or concealment of allocation. • Blinding: patients, clinicians, assessors x1 year. • Analysis: Signal—increased serious infections with infliximab. <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="border: none;"></th> <th style="border: none; text-align: center;">Days 1–197</th> <th colspan="2" style="border: none; text-align: center;">Days 1–365</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="border: none;"></th> <th style="border: none; text-align: center;">Placebo + MTX</th> <th style="border: none; text-align: center;">Infliximab + MTXn=165</th> <th style="border: none; text-align: center;">Infliximab +MTX n =165)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Serious infections</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">3 (2.7)</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">7 (4.2)</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">14 (8.5)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Days 1–197	Days 1–365			Placebo + MTX	Infliximab + MTXn=165	Infliximab +MTX n =165)	Serious infections	3 (2.7)	7 (4.2)	14 (8.5)
	Days 1–197	Days 1–365											
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Serious infections	3 (2.7)	7 (4.2)	14 (8.5)										
44	Weinblatt ME, Kremer JM, Bankhurst AD, et al. A trial of etanercept, a recombinant tumor necrosis factor receptor:Fc fusion protein, in patients with rheumatoid arthritis receiving methotrexate. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1999;340:253–9.												
46	Lan JL, Chou SJ, Chen DY, Chen YH, Hsieh TY, Young MJ. A comparative study of etanercept plus methotrexate and methotrexate alone in Taiwanese patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: a 12-week, double-blind, randomized, placebo–controlled study. <i>J Formos Med Assoc</i> 2004;103: 618–23.												
47	van der Heijde D, Klareskog L, Rodriguez-Valverde V, et al. Comparison of etanercept and methotrexate, alone and combined, in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: two-year clinical and radiographic results from the TEMPO study, a double-blind, randomized trial. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006;54: 1063–74.												

SAFETY RESULTS FOR ADALIMUMAB, ETANERCEPT AND INFlixIMAB COMPARED TO PLACEBO

Drug	Outcome	Number of Patients	Relative Risk	P Value
Adalimumab				
Kim 07, Miyasaka 07, Furst 03, van de Putte 04, Breedveld 06	Serious adverse events	1529	0.98 (95% CI 0.67 to 1.43)	0.90
Keystone 04, Kim 07, Miyasaka 07, Furst 03, van de Putte 03, Breedveld 06	Serious infections	2300	2.22 (95% CI 0.83 to 5.99)	0.11
Kim 07, Miyasaka 07, Furst 03, Breedveld 06	Malignancy	1467	0.55 (95% CI 0.14 to 2.11)	0.38
Keystone 04, Kim 07, Miyasaka 07, Furst 03, van de Putte 03, Breedveld 06	Deaths	2428	2.52 (95% CI 0.72 to 8.86)	0.15
Furst 2003, van de Putte 2003, Breedveld 2006, Kim 2007, Miyasaka 2008	Withdrawal due to adverse events	1609	1.56 (95% CI 1.04 to 2.35)	
Etanercept				
Klareskog 04, Emery 08, Lan 04	Serious adverse events	1045	0.70 (95% CI 0.41 to 1.22)	0.36
Klareskog 04, Emery 08, Lan 04	Serious infections	1302	0.89 (95% CI 0.54 to 1.48)	0.66
Klareskog 04, Emery 08, Lan 04	Malignancy	1302	0.98 (95% CI 0.32 to 3.02)	0.97
Van der Heijde 07, Weinblatt 99, Lan 04	Deaths	1178	1.54 (95% CI 0.19 to 12.48)	0.68
Emery 08, Klareskog 04, Lan 04, Moreland 99, van der Heijde 06, Weinblatt 99	Withdrawal due to adverse events	1549	0.86 (95% CI 0.63 to 1.16)	
Infliximab				
Lipsky 00, Maini 99, St Clair 04, Westhovens 06, Abe 06, Schiff 08	Serious adverse events	2610	1.12 (95% CI 0.90 to 1.41)	0.32

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

Lipsky 00, Maini 99, St Clair 04, Westhovens 06, Schiff 08	Serious infections	2017	0.96 (95% CI 0.39 to 2.38)	0.93
Maini 99, St Clair 04, Zhang F-C, Schiff 08	Malignancy	2016	1.64 (95% CI 0.30 to 8.89)	0.57
St Clair 04, Abe 06, Schiff 08	Death	1042	0.71 (95% CI 0.11 to 4.85)	0.73
Abe 2006, Lipsky 2000, Quinn 2005, Schiff 2008, St Clair 2004, Westhovens 2006, Zhang 2006	Withdrawal due to adverse events	2132	2.05 (95% CI 1.33 to 3.16)	

Risk of Malignancy in RA, Psoriasis and PsA With IFX, ADA, ETN

Wiens 10	IFX, ADA, ETN in RA versus Placebo with or without MTX (2,145)	IFX: RR 1.64 (95% CI 0.30 to 8.89) ADA: RR 0.55 (95% CI 0.14 to 2.11) ETN: RR 0.98 (95% CI 0.32 to 3.02)
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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

WOLFE 07a_Registry_Cancer_3Agents_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Wolfe 07a

Citation: Wolfe F, Michaud K. Biologic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of malignancy: analyses from a large US observational study. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007 Sep;56(9):2886-95.. PubMed PMID: 17729297
Study Type: Registry Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: During the period of data collection, the National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases received research support from Abbott, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Centocor, Merck, Pfizer, and Wyeth-Australia.

Abstract

Objective. Induction of malignancy is a major concern when rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is treated with biologic therapy. A meta-analysis of RA biologic clinical trials found a general increased risk of malignancy, but this risk was not found in a large observational study. We undertook this study to assess the risk of malignancy among biologic-treated patients in a large US observational database.

Methods. We studied incident cases of cancer among 13,001 patients during approximately 49,000 patient-years of observation in the years 1998–2005. Cancer rates were compared with population rates using the US National Cancer Institute SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results) database. Assessment of the risk of biologic therapy utilized conditional logistic regression to calculate odds ratios (ORs) as estimates of the relative risk, further adjusted for 6 confounders: age, sex, education level, smoking history, RA severity, and prednisone use.

Results. Biologic exposure was 49%. There were 623 incident cases of nonmelanotic skin cancer and 537 other cancers. The standardized incidence ratios and 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) compared with SEER data were as follows: all cancers 1.0 (1.0–1.1), breast 0.8 (0.6–0.9), colon 0.5 (0.4–0.6), lung 1.2 (1.0–1.4), lymphoma 1.7 (1.3–2.2). Biologics were associated with an increased risk of nonmelanotic skin cancer (OR 1.5, 95% CI 1.2–1.8) and melanoma (OR 2.3, 95% CI 0.9–5.4). No other malignancy was associated with biologic use; the OR (overall risk) of any cancer was 1.0 (95% CI 0.8–1.2).

Conclusion. Biologic therapy is associated with increased risk for skin cancers, but not for solid tumors or lymphoproliferative malignancies. These associations were consistent across different biologic therapies.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: **Adalimumab, etanercept, , infliximab, in RA**
- Participants were members of the US National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases (NDB) longitudinal study of RA outcomes who completed semiannual questionnaires in the period 1998 through 2005. NDB participants are recruited on an ongoing basis from the practices of US rheumatologists and are followed up prospectively with semiannual, detailed, 28-page questionnaires.
- To determine expected rates of specific cancers, investigators used the US SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End- Results) database as a comparison population. The SEER Program of the National Cancer Institute is an authoritative source of information on cancer incidence and survival in the US. The SEER Program currently collects and publishes cancer incidence and survival data from population-based cancer registries covering approximately 26% of the US population. Investigators used age and sex categories from the SEER database to determine the standardized incidence ratio (SIR) for each cancer studied in the RA sample compared with the US population.
- Assessment of the risk of biologic therapy utilized conditional logistic regression to calculate odds ratios (ORs) as estimates of the relative risk, further adjusted for 6 confounders: age, sex, education level, smoking history, RA severity, and prednisone use.
- Odds ratios for individual agents compared to US population cancer rates (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) were: infliximab OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3), P= 0.820; adalimumab OR 0.7 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6), P= 0.393; etanercept OR 1.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 1.3), P= 0.962.
- Odds ratios for individual agents compared to US population melanoma rates were: infliximab OR 2.6 (95% CI 1.0 to 6.7), P = 0.056 and etanercept OR 2.4 (95% CI 1.0 to 5.8), P = 0.054.
- Infliximab (OR 1.7 [95% CI 1.3 to 2.2], P = 0.001) and etanercept (OR 1.2 [95% CI 1.0 to 1.5], P = 0.081) were associated with non-melanotic skin cancer.
- Findings of no statistically significant difference raise questions of sufficient power.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

WOLFE 07b_lymphoma_3Agents_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Wolfe 07b

Citation: Wolfe F, Michaud K. The effect of methotrexate and anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy on the risk of lymphoma in rheumatoid arthritis in 19,562 patients during 89,710 person-years of observation. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007;56(5):1433–9. PMID: 17469100

Study Type: Registry Cohort

Manufacture Involvement: The National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases has conducted safety registries for Centocor, Sanofi-Aventis, and Bristol-Meyers Squibb and has received grant support from Abbott, Amgen, Wyeth-Australia, Merck, and Pfizer. Completed manuscript was reviewed by Centocor. No changes in the manuscript were made after their review.

Abstract

Objective. To ascertain the relationship between anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF) therapy, methotrexate (MTX), and the risk of lymphoma in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). This report updates our previous report during 29,314 person-years of followup.

Methods. Participants in the National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases (NDB) longitudinal study of long-term outcomes of RA completed semiannual questionnaires from 1998 through 2005, during 89,710 person-years of followup. Lymphoma reports were validated by medical records. The association between lymphoma and treatment was investigated using conditional logistic regression, adjusted for severity and demographic covariates.

Results. Of the 19,591 participants, 55.3% received biologic agents and 68.0% received MTX while enrolled in the NDB. The lymphoma incidence rate was 105.9 (95% confidence interval [95% CI] 86.6–129.5) per 100,000 person-years of exposure. Compared with the SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results) lymphoma database, the standardized incidence ratio was 1.8(95% CI 1.5 to 2.2). The odds ratio (OR) for lymphoma in patients who received anti-TNF therapy compared with patients who did not receive anti-TNF therapy was 1.0 (95% CI 0.6–1.8 [P = 0.875]). The OR for lymphoma in patients who received anti-TNF plus MTX therapy compared with patients who received MTX treatment alone was 1.1 (95% CI 0.6–2.0 [P = 0.710]). Infliximab and etanercept considered individually also were not associated with a risk of lymphoma.

Conclusion. In a study of lymphoma in 19,591 RA patients over 89,710 person-years of followup, which included exposure to anti-TNF therapy in 10,815 patients, we did not observe evidence for an increase in the incidence of lymphoma among patients who received anti-TNF therapy.

Reviewer Comments

- Agents of Interest: Adalimumab, etanercept, , infliximab, in RA
- Participants were members of the US National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases (NDB) longitudinal study of RA outcomes who completed semiannual questionnaires in the period 1998 through 2005. NDB participants are recruited on an ongoing basis from the practices of US rheumatologists and are followed up prospectively with semiannual, detailed, 28-page questionnaires.
- To determine expected rates of specific cancers, investigators used the US SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End- Results) database as a comparison population. The SEER Program of the National Cancer Institute is an authoritative source of information on cancer incidence and survival in the US. The SEER Program currently collects and publishes cancer incidence and survival data from population-based cancer registries covering approximately 26% of the US population. Investigators used age and sex categories from the SEER database to determine the standardized incidence ratio (SIR) for each cancer studied in the RA sample compared with the US population.
- Assessment of the risk of biologic therapy utilized conditional logistic regression to calculate odds ratios (ORs) as estimates of the relative risk, further adjusted for 6 confounders: age, sex, education level, smoking history, RA severity, and prednisone use.

Individual Agents

- Some models for infliximab and etanercept, respectively, showed no association of these treatments with lymphoma. The OR for the association of any Infliximab treatment with lymphoma was 1.2 (95% CI 0.6 to 2.2), P=0.646.
- Any etanercept treatment was 0.7 (95% CI 0.3 to 1.6), P =0.422.
- One model showed a statistically significant association between adalimumab treatment and lymphoma based on 56 cases and 2 lymphomas in the adalimumab-treated group. The limited number of cases reflects the study requirement that patients receiving specific anti-TNF therapies not have been treated with other anti-TNF therapies first. When this requirement was relaxed for adalimumab, the number of cases expanded to 1,482 and the OR for adalimumab versus all other therapies was 1.2 (95% CI 0.3 to 5.10), P =0.812.
- Findings of no statistically significant difference raise questions of sufficient power.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

Wolfe TB IFX 04 FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Wolfe 04

Citation: Wolfe F, Michaud K, Anderson J, Urbansky K. Tuberculosis infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and the effect of infliximab therapy. *Arthritis Rheum*2004 Feb;50(2):372-9. PMID: 14872478

Study Type: Prospective cohort study with historical controls

Manufacture Involvement: Funding Centocor

Abstract

Objective. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the 1999 and 2000 incidence rates for tuberculosis (TB) in the US population were 6.4 and 5.8, respectively, per 100,000 persons. Recently, reports of TB following infliximab administration have raised questions regarding the rate of TB in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) generally and in those treated with infliximab in clinical practice. We undertook this study to determine the baseline rate of TB in RA prior to the introduction of infliximab and to determine the rate of TB among those currently receiving infliximab.

Methods. We surveyed patients with questionnaires, followed by detailed validation from medical records and physician reports. In study 1, we evaluated 10,782 RA patients in 1998–1999 prior to the widespread use of infliximab. In study 2, we evaluated 6,460 infliximab-treated patients in 2000–2002. **Results.** In study 1, the lifetime rate of TB was 696 per 100,000 patients (95% confidence interval [95% CI] 547–872). Of these cases, 76.8% occurred prior to the onset of RA. During the period of prospective followup, 1 case of TB developed during 16,173 patient-years of followup, yielding a rate of 6.2 cases (95% CI 1.6–34.4) per 100,000 patients. In study 2, the TB incidence rate among infliximab-treated patients was 52.5 cases (95% CI 14.3–134.4) per 100,000 patient-years of exposure. Three of the 4 cases occurred in patients with a history of TB exposure, and no cases occurred in persons with recent TB skin tests or prophylaxis.

Conclusion. The rate of TB is not increased in RA patients generally. Among infliximab-treated patients, the rate is 52.5 cases (95% CI 14.3–134.4) per 100,000 patient-years of exposure. A thorough medical history regarding TB, as well as tuberculin testing and radiographic examination (if indicated), should be an essential component of anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy.

Reviewer Comments

- Prospective cohort study with historical controls
- Results based on combination of observational data resulting in high risk of selection, performance, attrition, reporting and assessment biases.
- Using data from the National Data Bank of Rheumatic Diseases (NBI), reported an eightfold higher rate of tuberculosis in patients treated with infliximab than in patients in a historic control group who had been treated with synthetic DMARDs. The analysis yielded rates of 6.2 cases per 100,000 patient-years in the control group and 52.5 cases per 100,000 patient-years in patients on infliximab.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

ZIDI GOLimumab malignancy and lymphoma 10_FINAL

AUTHOR YR: Zidi 10

Citation: Zidi I, Bouaziz A, Mnif W, Bartegi A, Ben Amor N. Golimumab and malignancies: true or false association? Med Oncol 2010 Apr 7. PMID: 20373059

Study Type: Narrative Review

Manufacture Involvement: No information

Abstract

Malignancy is one of the comorbidities linked to golimumab, a biological TNF-alpha blocker. In this systematic review and meta-analysis, we searched different databases and analyzed original publications to elucidate the remaining open question about the real association of malignancies with golimumab therapy. The most frequent cancer in patients treated with golimumab, in association or not with methotrexate, is the lung adenocarcinoma. However, lymphoma is not very commonly represented in these patients. We show that there is no major and evident risk of malignancies associated with golimumab in current scientific literature. An increased risk of malignancies may be associated with golimumab, but this warrants further clinical confirmation. Also, this risk mentioned in different studies must be taken with caution because of number of limits and biases.

Reviewer Comments

- Search: PubMed, Highwire, EBESCO, Cochrane, FDA database to January 2010.
- Search Terms: golimumab, Simponi, CNTO 148 limited to French and English.
- Authors provide estimates of various malignancies with GLN reported in 6 RCTs (Emery 09, Kavanaugh 09, Kay 08, Keystone 09, Kremer 10, Smolen 08). The incidence of malignancy in the trials was not statistically different from control groups. Likely to have been underpowered to demonstrate differences if they existed.

Category	GLN	Control	Controls (Placebo + /- MTX): No statistical difference for any cancer
Lung adenocarcinoma	3.1%		LABEL INFORMATION FROM FDA MEDICAL REVIEW Lymphoma: FDA statement: During the controlled portions of the Phase 2 trials in RA, and the Phase 3 trials in RA, PsA and AS, the incidence of lymphoma per 100 patient-years of follow-up was 0.21 (95% CI 0.03 to 0.77) in the combined SIMPONI group compared with an incidence of 0 (95% CI 0 to 0.96) in the placebo group. TB: In the controlled and uncontrolled portions of the Phase 2 RA and Phase 3 RA, PsA, and AS trials, the incidence of active TB was 0.23 and 0 per 100 patient-years in 2347 SIMPONI-treated patients and 674 placebo-treated patients, respectively. Cases of TB included pulmonary and extra pulmonary TB. The overwhelming majority of the TB cases occurred in countries with a high incidence rate of TB. Ref. http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2009/125289s006lbl.pdf
Basal cell carcinoma	1%	0.8%	
Squamous cell carcinoma	1%	0.6%	
Breast carcinoma	0.8%	0.6%	
Bladder cancer	0.8%		
Ovarian cancer	0.8%		
Colon cancer	0.7%		
Prostate cancer	0.7%		
Lung cancer	0.7%		
Lymphoma	0.6%		

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V. SEARCH DOCUMENTATION

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SEARCH 1_etanercept RA meta 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	etanercept AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Meta-Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND Meta-Analysis[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/15/10
Total Yield	37
Total marked for retrieval	12 Wiens 10, Singh Cochrane 09, Bongatz 09, Poulin 09, Alonso-Ruiz 08, Brimhall 08, Saad 08, Schmitt 08, Gartlehner 06, Woolacott 06, Gottlieb 06, Fleischmann 06
Exclusions after title +/- abstract review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Secondary Studies

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with hepatitis C: from the Medical Board of the National Psoriasis Foundation. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2009 Dec;61(6):1044-55. Epub 2009 Oct 7. Review. PubMed PMID: 19811848.

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SEARCH 2_infliximab_ RA meta 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	infliximab AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Meta-Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND Meta-Analysis[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/15/10
Total Yield	38
Total marked for retrieval	All are duplicates
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

Secondary Studies: Yield and Disposition

- 1: Wiens A, Venson R, Correr CJ, Otuki MF, Pontarolo R. Meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2010 Apr;30(4):339-53. Review. PubMed PMID: 20334454.
- 2: Lee YH, Ji JD, Bae SC, Song GG. Associations between tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) -308 and -238 G/A polymorphisms and shared epitope status and responsiveness to TNF-alpha blockers in rheumatoid arthritis: a metaanalysis update. *J Rheumatol*. 2010 Apr;37(4):740-6. Epub 2010 Mar 1. PubMed PMID: 20194454.
- 3: Petitpain N, Gambier N, Wahl D, Chary-Valckenaere I, Loeuille D, Gillet P; French Network of Pharmacovigilance Centers. Arterial and venous thromboembolic events during anti-TNF therapy: a study of 85 spontaneous reports in the period 2000-2006. *Biomed Mater Eng*. 2009;19(4-5):355-64. PubMed PMID: 20042802.
- 4: Blasco AJ, Lázaro P, Ferrándiz C, García-Díez A, Liso J. [Efficiency of biologic agents in the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis]. *Actas Dermosifiliogr*. 2009 Nov;100(9):792-803. Spanish. PubMed PMID: 19889301.
- 5: Singh JA, Christensen R, Wells GA, Suarez-Almazor ME, Buchbinder R, Lopez-Olivo MA, Ghogomu ET, Tugwell P. A network meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials of biologics for rheumatoid arthritis: a Cochrane overview. *CMAJ*. 2009 Nov 24;181(11):787-96. Epub 2009 Nov 2. PubMed PMID: 19884297; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2780484.
- 6: Singh JA, Christensen R, Wells GA, Suarez-Almazor ME, Buchbinder R, Lopez-Olivo MA, Tanjong Ghogomu E, Tugwell P. Biologics for rheumatoid arthritis: an overview of Cochrane reviews. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2009 Oct 7;(4):CD007848. Review. PubMed PMID: 19821440.
- 7: Köller MD, Aletaha D, Funovits J, Pangan A, Baker D, Smolen JS. Response of elderly patients with rheumatoid arthritis to methotrexate or TNF inhibitors compared with younger patients. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2009 Dec;48(12):1575-80. Epub 2009 Oct 7. PubMed PMID: 19812228.
- 8: Poulin Y, Langley RG, Teixeira HD, Martel MJ, Cheung S. Biologics in the treatment of psoriasis: clinical and economic overview. *J Cutan Med Surg*. 2009 Sep-Oct;13 Suppl 2:S49-57. Review. PubMed PMID: 19799827.
- 9: Wiens A, Correr CJ, Venson R, Grochocki MC, Otuki MF, Pontarolo R. A meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of using infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Clin Rheumatol*. 2009 Dec;28(12):1365-73. Epub 2009 Sep 22. Review. PubMed PMID: 19771491.
- 10: Christensen R, Kristensen LE, Geborek P, Dannekiold-Samsøe B, Saxne T, Bliddal H. [The efficacy of the three available anti-tumour necrosis factor therapies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. A meta-analytic literature review--secondary publication]. *Ugeskr Laeger*. 2009 Jun 22;171(26):2192-4. Review. Danish. PubMed PMID: 19678436.
- 11: Bansback N, Sizto S, Sun H, Feldman S, Willian MK, Anis A. Efficacy of systemic treatments for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Dermatology*. 2009;219(3):209-18. Epub 2009 Aug 5. Review. PubMed PMID: 19657180.
- 12: Brown BC, Warren RB, Grindlay DJ, Griffiths CE. What's new in psoriasis?

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

Analysis of the clinical significance of systematic reviews on psoriasis published in 2007 and 2008. *Clin Exp Dermatol.* 2009 Aug;34(6):664-7. Epub 2009 Jun 30. Review. PubMed PMID: 19572945.

13: Zhang Z, Schmitt J, Wozel G, Kirch W. [Treatment of plaque psoriasis with biologics. A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials]. *Med Klin (Munich).* 2009 Feb 15;104(2):125-36. Epub 2009 Feb 26. German. PubMed PMID: 19242664.

14: Zintzaras E, Dahabreh IJ, Giannouli S, Voulgarelis M, Moutsopoulos HM. Infliximab and methotrexate in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of dosage regimens. *Clin Ther.* 2008 Nov;30(11):1939-55. Review. PubMed PMID: 19108784.

15: Venkateshan SP, Sidhu S, Malhotra S, Pandhi P. Efficacy of biologicals in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. a meta-analysis. *Pharmacology.* 2009;83(1):1-9. Epub 2008 Oct 28. Review. PubMed PMID: 18957873.

16: Doyle MK, Rahman MU, Han C, Han J, Giles J, Bingham CO 3rd, Bathon J. Treatment with infliximab plus methotrexate improves anemia in patients with rheumatoid arthritis independent of improvement in other clinical outcome measures—a pooled analysis from three large, multicenter, double-blind, randomized clinical trials. *Semin Arthritis Rheum.* 2009 Oct;39(2):123-31. Epub 2008 Sep 27. Review. PubMed PMID: 18823645.

17: Schmitt J, Zhang Z, Wozel G, Meurer M, Kirch W. Efficacy and tolerability of biologic and nonbiologic systemic treatments for moderate-to-severe psoriasis: meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Br J Dermatol.* 2008 Sep;159(3):513-26. Epub 2008 Jul 9. Review. PubMed PMID: 18627372.

18: Brimhall AK, King LN, Licciardone JC, Jacobe H, Menter A. Safety and efficacy of alefacept, efalizumab, etanercept and infliximab in treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Br J Dermatol.* 2008 Aug;159(2):274-85. Epub 2008 Jun 10. Review. PubMed PMID: 18547300.

19: Alonso-Ruiz A, Pijoan JI, Ansuategui E, Urkaregi A, Calabozo M, Quintana A. Tumor necrosis factor alpha drugs in rheumatoid arthritis: systematic review and metaanalysis of efficacy and safety. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord.* 2008 Apr 17;9:52. Review. PubMed PMID: 18419803; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2377247.

20: Saad AA, Symmons DP, Noyce PR, Ashcroft DM. Risks and benefits of tumor necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors in the management of psoriatic arthritis: systematic review and metaanalysis of randomized controlled trials. *J Rheumatol.* 2008 May;35(5):883-90. Epub 2008 Mar 15. Review. PubMed PMID: 18381787.

21: Nelson AA, Pearce DJ, Fleischer AB Jr, Balkrishnan R, Feldman SR. Cost-effectiveness of biologic treatments for psoriasis based on subjective and objective efficacy measures assessed over a 12-week treatment period. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2008 Jan;58(1):125-35. Epub 2007 Nov 8. Review. PubMed PMID: 17996329.

22: Bravo Vergel Y, Hawkins NS, Claxton K, Asseburg C, Palmer S, Woolacott N, Bruce IN, Sculpher MJ. The cost-effectiveness of etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of patients with psoriatic arthritis. *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2007 Nov;46(11):1729-35. PubMed PMID: 17956918.

23: Lee YH, Woo JH, Rho YH, Choi SJ, Ji JD, Song GG. Meta-analysis of the combination of TNF inhibitors plus MTX compared to MTX monotherapy, and the adjusted indirect comparison of TNF inhibitors in patients suffering from active rheumatoid arthritis. *Rheumatol Int.* 2008 Apr;28(6):553-9. Epub 2007 Oct 18. PubMed PMID: 17943257.

24: Brodsky V, Czirják L, Géher P, Hodinka L, Kárpáti K, Péntek M, Poór G,

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

Szekanecz Z, Gulácsi L. [Rituximab in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: systematic review]. *Orv Hetil.* 2007 Oct 7;148(40):1883-93. Review. Hungarian. PubMed PMID: 17905683.

25: Heiligenhaus A, Horneff G, Greiner K, Mackensen F, Zierhut M, Foeldvari I, Michels H. [Inhibitors of tumour necrosis factor-alpha for the treatment of arthritis and uveitis in childhood]. *Klin Monbl Augenheilkd.* 2007 Jun;224(6):526-31. Review. German. PubMed PMID: 17594625.

26: Nixon R, Bansback N, Brennan A. The efficacy of inhibiting tumour necrosis factor alpha and interleukin 1 in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a meta-analysis and adjusted indirect comparisons. *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2007 Jul;46(7):1140-7. Epub 2007 May 3. PubMed PMID: 17478472.

27: Katugampola RP, Lewis VJ, Finlay AY. The Dermatology Life Quality Index: assessing the efficacy of biological therapies for psoriasis. *Br J Dermatol.* 2007 May;156(5):945-50. Epub 2007 Mar 28. Review. PubMed PMID: 17388922.

28: Gartlehner G, Hansen RA, Jonas BL, Thieda P, Lohr KN. The comparative efficacy and safety of biologics for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review and metaanalysis. *J Rheumatol.* 2006 Dec;33(12):2398-408. Review. PubMed PMID: 17225293.

29: Koó E, Brodsky V, Péntek M, Ujfalussy I, Nagy MB, Gulácsi L. [The role of biological agents in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis, literature review]. *Orv Hetil.* 2006 Oct 15;147(41):1963-70. Review. Hungarian. PubMed PMID: 17120686.

30: Chen YF, Jobanputra P, Barton P, Jowett S, Bryan S, Clark W, Fry-Smith A, Burls A. A systematic review of the effectiveness of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in adults and an economic evaluation of their cost-effectiveness. *Health Technol Assess.* 2006 Nov;10(42):iii-iv, xi-xiii, 1-229. Review. PubMed PMID: 17049139.

31: Woolacott N, Bravo Vergel Y, Hawkins N, Kainth A, Khadjesari Z, Misso K, Light K, Asseburg C, Palmer S, Claxton K, Bruce I, Sculpher M, Riemsma R. Etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis: a systematic review and economic evaluation. *Health Technol Assess.* 2006 Sep;10(31):iii-iv, xiii-xvi, 1-239. Review. PubMed PMID: 16948890.

32: Kemény L, Brodsky V, Kárpáti K, Gulácsi L. [The role of biological drugs in the treatment of psoriasis, results from 9 randomized placebo-controlled trials]. *Orv Hetil.* 2006 May 28;147(21):981-90. Review. Hungarian. PubMed PMID: 16812973.

33: Bongartz T, Sutton AJ, Sweeting MJ, Buchan I, Matteson EL, Montori V. Anti-TNF antibody therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of serious infections and malignancies: systematic review and meta-analysis of rare harmful effects in randomized controlled trials. *JAMA.* 2006 May 17;295(19):2275-85. Review. Erratum in: *JAMA.* 2006 Jun 7;295(21):2482. PubMed PMID: 16705109.

34: Fransen J, Antoni C, Mease PJ, Uter W, Kavanaugh A, Kalden JR, Van Riel PL. Performance of response criteria for assessing peripheral arthritis in patients with psoriatic arthritis: analysis of data from randomised controlled trials of two tumour necrosis factor inhibitors. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2006 Oct;65(10):1373-8. Epub 2006 Apr 27. PubMed PMID: 16644783; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1798317.

35: Chung CP, Thompson JL, Koch GG, Amara I, Strand V, Pincus T. Are American College of Rheumatology 50% response criteria superior to 20% criteria in distinguishing active aggressive treatment in rheumatoid arthritis clinical trials reported since 1997? A meta-analysis of discriminant capacities. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2006 Dec;65(12):1602-7. Epub 2006 Feb 27. Review. PubMed PMID: 16504992; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1798472.

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36: Hochberg MC, Tracy JK, Hawkins-Holt M, Flores RH. Comparison of the efficacy of the tumour necrosis factor alpha blocking agents adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab when added to methotrexate in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2003 Nov;62 Suppl 2:ii13-6. Review. PubMed PMID: 14532140; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1766753.

37: Jones G, Halbert J, Crotty M, Shanahan EM, Batterham M, Ahern M. The effect of treatment on radiological progression in rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review of randomized placebo-controlled trials. *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2003 Jan;42(1):6-13. Review. PubMed PMID: 12509606.

38: Rodewald EJ, Housman TS, Mellen BG, Feldman SR. The efficacy of 308nm laser treatment of psoriasis compared to historical controls. *Dermatol Online J.* 2001 Dec;7(2):4. PubMed PMID: 12165220.

SEARCH 3_adalimumab_meta 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	adalimumab AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Meta-Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND Meta-Analysis[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/16/10
Total Yield	30
Total marked for retrieval	0
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Secondary Studies: Yield and Disposition

1: Wiens A, Venson R, Correr CJ, Otuki MF, Pontarolo R. Meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Pharmacotherapy.* 2010 Apr;30(4):339-53. Review. PubMed PMID: 20334454.

2: Petitpain N, Gambier N, Wahl D, Chary-Valckenaere I, Loeuille D, Gillet P; French Network of Pharmacovigilance Centers. Arterial and venous thromboembolic events during anti-TNF therapy: a study of 85 spontaneous reports in the period 2000-2006. *Biomed Mater Eng.* 2009;19(4-5):355-64. PubMed PMID: 20042802.

3: Blasco AJ, Lázaro P, Ferrándiz C, García-Díez A, Liso J. [Efficiency of biologic agents in the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis]. *Actas Dermosifiliogr.* 2009 Nov;100(9):792-803. Spanish. PubMed PMID: 19889301.

4: Singh JA, Christensen R, Wells GA, Suarez-Almazor ME, Buchbinder R, Lopez-Olivo MA, Ghogomu ET, Tugwell P. A network meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials of biologics for rheumatoid arthritis: a Cochrane overview.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

CMAJ. 2009 Nov 24;181(11):787-96. Epub 2009 Nov 2. PubMed PMID: 19884297; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2780484.

5: Singh JA, Christensen R, Wells GA, Suarez-Almazor ME, Buchbinder R, Lopez-Olivo MA, Tanjong Ghogomu E, Tugwell P. Biologics for rheumatoid arthritis: an overview of Cochrane reviews. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2009 Oct 7;(4):CD007848. Review. PubMed PMID: 19821440.

6: Köller MD, Aletaha D, Funovits J, Pangan A, Baker D, Smolen JS. Response of elderly patients with rheumatoid arthritis to methotrexate or TNF inhibitors compared with younger patients. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2009 Dec;48(12):1575-80. Epub 2009 Oct 7. PubMed PMID: 19812228.

7: Poulin Y, Langley RG, Teixeira HD, Martel MJ, Cheung S. Biologics in the treatment of psoriasis: clinical and economic overview. *J Cutan Med Surg*. 2009 Sep-Oct;13 Suppl 2:S49-57. Review. PubMed PMID: 19799827.

8: Christensen R, Kristensen LE, Geborek P, Danneskiold-Samsøe B, Saxne T, Bliddal H. [The efficacy of the three available anti-tumour necrosis factor therapies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. A meta-analytic literature review--secondary publication]. *Ugeskr Laeger*. 2009 Jun 22;171(26):2192-4. Review. Danish. PubMed PMID: 19678436.

9: Bansback N, Sizto S, Sun H, Feldman S, Willian MK, Anis A. Efficacy of systemic treatments for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Dermatology*. 2009;219(3):209-18. Epub 2009 Aug 5. Review. PubMed PMID: 19657180.

10: Brown BC, Warren RB, Grindlay DJ, Griffiths CE. What's new in psoriasis? Analysis of the clinical significance of systematic reviews on psoriasis published in 2007 and 2008. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2009 Aug;34(6):664-7. Epub 2009 Jun 30. Review. PubMed PMID: 19572945.

11: Zhang Z, Schmitt J, Wozel G, Kirch W. [Treatment of plaque psoriasis with biologics. A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials]. *Med Klin (Munich)*. 2009 Feb 15;104(2):125-36. Epub 2009 Feb 26. German. PubMed PMID: 19242664.

12: Burmester GR, Mease P, Dijkmans BA, Gordon K, Lovell D, Panaccione R, Perez J, Pangan AL. Adalimumab safety and mortality rates from global clinical trials of six immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2009 Dec;68(12):1863-9. Epub 2009 Jan 15. PubMed PMID: 19147611; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2770105.

13: Venkateshan SP, Sidhu S, Malhotra S, Pandhi P. Efficacy of biologicals in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. a meta-analysis. *Pharmacology*. 2009;83(1):1-9. Epub 2008 Oct 28. Review. PubMed PMID: 18957873.

14: Schmitt J, Zhang Z, Wozel G, Meurer M, Kirch W. Efficacy and tolerability of biologic and nonbiologic systemic treatments for moderate-to-severe psoriasis: meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Br J Dermatol*. 2008 Sep;159(3):513-26. Epub 2008 Jul 9. Review. PubMed PMID: 18627372.

15: Alonso-Ruiz A, Pijoan JI, Ansuategui E, Urkaregi A, Calabozo M, Quintana A. Tumor necrosis factor alpha drugs in rheumatoid arthritis: systematic review and metaanalysis of efficacy and safety. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*. 2008 Apr 17;9:52. Review. PubMed PMID: 18419803; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2377247.

16: Saad AA, Symmons DP, Noyce PR, Ashcroft DM. Risks and benefits of tumor necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors in the management of psoriatic arthritis: systematic review and metaanalysis of randomized controlled trials. *J Rheumatol*. 2008 May;35(5):883-90. Epub 2008 Mar 15. Review. PubMed PMID: 18381787.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

- 17: Nelson AA, Pearce DJ, Fleischer AB Jr, Balkrishnan R, Feldman SR. Cost-effectiveness of biologic treatments for psoriasis based on subjective and objective efficacy measures assessed over a 12-week treatment period. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2008 Jan;58(1):125-35. Epub 2007 Nov 8. Review. PubMed PMID: 17996329.
- 18: Lee YH, Woo JH, Rho YH, Choi SJ, Ji JD, Song GG. Meta-analysis of the combination of TNF inhibitors plus MTX compared to MTX monotherapy, and the adjusted indirect comparison of TNF inhibitors in patients suffering from active rheumatoid arthritis. *Rheumatol Int*. 2008 Apr;28(6):553-9. Epub 2007 Oct 18. PubMed PMID: 17943257.
- 19: Brodsky V, Cziráj L, Géher P, Hodinka L, Kárpáti K, Péntek M, Poór G, Szekanez Z, Gulácsi L. [Rituximab in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: systematic review]. *Orv Hetil*. 2007 Oct 7;148(40):1883-93. Review. Hungarian. PubMed PMID: 17905683.
- 20: Heiligenhaus A, Horneff G, Greiner K, Mackensen F, Zierhut M, Foeldvari I, Michels H. [Inhibitors of tumour necrosis factor-alpha for the treatment of arthritis and uveitis in childhood]. *Klin Monbl Augenheilkd*. 2007 Jun;224(6):526-31. Review. German. PubMed PMID: 17594625.
- 21: Nixon R, Bansback N, Brennan A. The efficacy of inhibiting tumour necrosis factor alpha and interleukin 1 in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a meta-analysis and adjusted indirect comparisons. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2007 Jul;46(7):1140-7. Epub 2007 May 3. PubMed PMID: 17478472.
- 22: Koó E, Brodsky V, Péntek M, Ujfalussy I, Nagy MB, Gulácsi L. [The role of biological agents in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis, literature review]. *Orv Hetil*. 2006 Oct 15;147(41):1963-70. Review. Hungarian. PubMed PMID: 17120686.
- 23: Chen YF, Jobanputra P, Barton P, Jowett S, Bryan S, Clark W, Fry-Smith A, Burls A. A systematic review of the effectiveness of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in adults and an economic evaluation of their cost-effectiveness. *Health Technol Assess*. 2006 Nov;10(42):iii-iv, xi-xiii, 1-229. Review. PubMed PMID: 17049139.
- 24: Bongartz T, Sutton AJ, Sweeting MJ, Buchan I, Matteson EL, Montori V. Anti-TNF antibody therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of serious infections and malignancies: systematic review and meta-analysis of rare harmful effects in randomized controlled trials. *JAMA*. 2006 May 17;295(19):2275-85. Review. Erratum in: *JAMA*. 2006 Jun 7;295(21):2482. PubMed PMID: 16705109.
- 25: Navarro-Sarabia F, Ariza-Ariza R, Hernández-Cruz B, Villanueva I. Adalimumab for treating rheumatoid arthritis. *J Rheumatol*. 2006 Jun;33(6):1075-81. Epub 2006 May 1. Review. PubMed PMID: 16652437.
- 26: Chung CP, Thompson JL, Koch GG, Amara I, Strand V, Pincus T. Are American College of Rheumatology 50% response criteria superior to 20% criteria in distinguishing active aggressive treatment in rheumatoid arthritis clinical trials reported since 1997? A meta-analysis of discriminant capacities. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2006 Dec;65(12):1602-7. Epub 2006 Feb 27. Review. PubMed PMID: 16504992; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1798472.
- 27: Navarro-Sarabia F, Ariza-Ariza R, Hernandez-Cruz B, Villanueva I. Adalimumab for treating rheumatoid arthritis. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2005 Jul 20;(3):CD005113. Review. PubMed PMID: 16034967.
- 28: Torrance GW, Tugwell P, Amorosi S, Chartash E, Sengupta N. Improvement in health utility among patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with adalimumab (a human anti-TNF monoclonal antibody) plus methotrexate. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2004 Jun;43(6):712-8. Epub 2004 Mar 23. PubMed PMID: 15039494.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

29: Hochberg MC, Tracy JK, Hawkins-Holt M, Flores RH. Comparison of the efficacy of the tumour necrosis factor alpha blocking agents adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab when added to methotrexate in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2003 Nov;62 Suppl 2:ii13-6. Review. PubMed PMID: 14532140; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1766753.

30: Rau R. Adalimumab (a fully human anti-tumour necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody) in the treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis: the initial results of five trials. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2002 Nov;61 Suppl 2:ii70-3. Review. PubMed PMID: 12379628; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1766697.

SEARCH 4_certolizumab_clinical trial 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	certolizumab AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Clinical Trial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND Clinical Trial[ptyp
Date of Search	8/16/10
Total Yield	6
Marked for retrieval	Nam 10, Statkute 10, Smolen 09, Fleishman 09
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Secondary Studies: No Meta-Analyses for certolizumab; following found with SR limit

1: Nam JL, Winthrop KL, van Vollenhoven RF, Pavelka K, Valesini G, Hensor EM, Worthy G, Landewé R, Smolen JS, Emery P, Buch MH. Current evidence for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: a systematic literature review informing the EULAR recommendations for the management of RA. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2010 Jun;69(6):976-86. Epub 2010 May 6. PubMed PMID: 20447957.

2: Statkute L, Ruderman EM. Novel TNF antagonists for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Expert Opin Investig Drugs.* 2010 Jan;19(1):105-15. Review. PubMed PMID: 20001558.

1: Strand V, Mease P, Burmester GR, Nikaï E, Coteur G, van Vollenhoven R, Combe B, Keystone EC, Kavanaugh A. Rapid and sustained improvements in health-related quality of life, fatigue, and other patient-reported outcomes in rheumatoid arthritis patients treated with certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate over 1 year: results from the RAPID 1 randomized controlled trial. *Arthritis Res Ther.* 2009;11(6):R170. Epub 2009 Nov 12. PubMed PMID: 19909548.

2: Kavanaugh A, Smolen JS, Emery P, Purcaru O, Keystone E, Richard L, Strand V,

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

van Vollenhoven RF. Effect of certolizumab pegol with methotrexate on home and work place productivity and social activities in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2009 Nov 15;61(11):1592-600. PubMed PMID: 19877104.

3: Smolen J, Landewé RB, Mease P, Brzezicki J, Mason D, Luijgens K, van Vollenhoven RF, Kavanaugh A, Schiff M, Burmester GR, Strand V, Vencovsky J, van der Heijde D. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol plus methotrexate in active rheumatoid arthritis: the RAPID 2 study. A randomised controlled trial. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 Jun;68(6):797-804. Epub 2008 Nov 17. PubMed PMID: 19015207; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2674556.

4: Fleischmann R, Vencovsky J, van Vollenhoven RF, Borenstein D, Box J, Coteur G, Goel N, Brezinschek HP, Innes A, Strand V. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol monotherapy every 4 weeks in patients with rheumatoid arthritis failing previous disease-modifying antirheumatic therapy: the FAST4WARD study. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 Jun;68(6):805-11. Epub 2008 Nov 17. PubMed PMID: 19015206; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2674555.

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6: Choy EH, Hazleman B, Smith M, Moss K, Lisi L, Scott DG, Patel J, Sopwith M, Isenberg DA. Efficacy of a novel PEGylated humanized anti-TNF fragment (CDP870) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a phase II double-blinded, randomized, dose-escalating trial. *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2002 Oct;41(10):1133-7. PubMed PMID: 12364632.

UPDATED SEARCH 11/15/10

SEARCH 5_golimumab_ meta 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	golimumab AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Meta-Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) AND ((("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND Meta-Analysis[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/16/10
Total Yield	1
Total marked for retrieval	Singh 10
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

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Secondary Studies: Yield and Disposition

- Singh JA, Noorbaloochi S, Singh G. Golimumab for rheumatoid arthritis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Jan 20;(1):CD008341. Review. PubMed PMID: 20091667.

SEARCH 6_ustekinumab_ meta 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	ustekinumab AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Meta-Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND Meta-Analysis[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/16/10
Total Yield	1
Total marked for retrieval	0
Notes	Exclude: no safety data

Secondary Studies: Yield

- Poulin Y, Langley RG, Teixeira HD, Martel MJ, Cheung S. Biologics in the treatment of psoriasis: clinical and economic overview. J Cutan Med Surg. 2009 Sep-Oct;13 Suppl 2:S49-57. Review. PubMed PMID: 19799827.

SEARCH 7_ustekinumab_ SR 3 condit

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	ustekinumab AND (rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriatic arthritis OR psoriasis)
Limits	Systematic Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields])) AND systematic[sb]
Date of Search	9/7/10
Total Yield	7
Total marked for retrieval	Tan 10, Uhlenhake 10, Scanlon 09
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrong study type • Lacking safety data • Duplicates
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Secondary Studies: Yield and Disposition

1: Tan JY, Li S, Yang K, Ma B, Chen W, Zha C, Zhang J. Ustekinumab, a human interleukin-12/23 monoclonal antibody, in patients with psoriasis: a meta-analysis. *J Dermatolog Treat.* 2010 Oct 5. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20923370.

2: Papoutsaki M, Talamonti M, Giunta A, Costanzo A, Ruzzetti M, Teoli M, Chimenti S. The impact of methodological approaches for presenting long-term clinical data on estimates of efficacy in psoriasis illustrated by three-year treatment data on infliximab. *Dermatology.* 2010;221 Suppl 1:43-7. Epub 2010 Aug 9. PubMed PMID: 20733314.

3: Mercuri SR, Naldi L. Potential role of ustekinumab in the treatment of chronic plaque psoriasis. *Biologics.* 2010 May 25;4:119-29. PubMed PMID: 20531968; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2880344.
Retrieved; not a SR

4: Gospodarevskaya E, Picot J, Cooper K, Loveman E, Takeda A. Ustekinumab for the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis. *Health Technol Assess.* 2009 Oct;13 Suppl 3:61-6. Review. PubMed PMID: 19846031.
Manufacturer's info review

5: Uhlenhake EE, Feldman SR. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab and etanercept for the treatment of psoriasis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther.* 2010 Jul;10(7):1105-12. Review. PubMed PMID: 20446825.

6: Poulin Y, Langley RG, Teixeira HD, Martel MJ, Cheung S. Biologics in the treatment of psoriasis: clinical and economic overview. *J Cutan Med Surg.* 2009 Sep-Oct;13 Suppl 2:S49-57. Review. PubMed PMID: 19799827.

7: Scanlon JV, Exter BP, Steinberg M, Jarvis CI. Ustekinumab: treatment of adult moderate-to-severe chronic plaque psoriasis. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2009 Sep;43(9):1456-65. Epub 2009 Aug 11. Review. PubMed PMID: 19671802.

SEARCH 8_VONV HEDGE final

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	"meta-analysis as topic"[MeSH] OR Meta-Analysis[ptyp] OR "systematic literature"[tiab] OR "systematic review*"[tiab] OR meta-analys*[tiab] OR "cochrane database syst rev"[Journal] OR "cochrane database of systematic reviews online"[Journal] OR "research synthesis"[tiab] OR "research integration"[tiab] OR "medline"[tiab] OR "data synthesis"[tiab] AND (adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab OR ustekinumab) AND (Rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic arthritis)
Limits	Systematic Review VonVille HEDGE as above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	None
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	"meta-analysis as topic"[MeSH] OR Meta-Analysis[ptyp] OR "systematic literature"[tiab] OR "systematic review*"[tiab] OR (meta analysable[tiab] OR meta analyse[tiab] OR meta analysed[tiab] OR meta analysers[tiab] OR meta analyses[tiab] OR meta analyses/reviews[tiab] OR meta analyses/systematic[tiab] OR meta analysia[tiab] OR meta analysic[tiab] OR meta analysing[tiab] OR meta analysis[tiab] OR meta analysis/further[tiab] OR meta analysis/metaregression[tiab] OR meta

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	analysis/practiced[tiab] OR meta analysis/sr[tiab] OR meta analysis/systematic[tiab] OR meta analysis/systemic[tiab] OR meta analysis's[tiab] OR meta analyses[tiab] OR meta analysisevaluating[tiab] OR meta analyst[tiab] OR meta analysts[tiab] OR meta analysts[tiab] OR "cochrane database syst rev"[Journal] OR "cochrane database of systematic reviews online"[Journal] OR "research synthesis"[tiab] OR "research integration"[tiab] OR "medline"[tiab] OR "data synthesis"[tiab] AND (("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]
Date of Search	8/18/10
Total Yield	148
Total marked for retrieval	Dharamsi 10, Krueger 04
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates
Notes	All relevant studies were duplicates

1: Collamer AN, Battafarano DF. Psoriatic Skin Lesions Induced by Tumor Necrosis Factor Antagonist Therapy: Clinical Features and Possible Immunopathogenesis. *Semin Arthritis Rheum*. 2010 Jun 25. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20580412.

2: Rozin AP, Hasin T, Toledano K, Guralnik L, Balbir-Gurman A. Seronegative polyarthritis as severe systemic disease. *Neth J Med*. 2010 Jun;68(6):236-41. PubMed PMID: 20558853.

3: Pedraz J, Daudén E. [Psoriatic arthritis and etanercept]. *Actas Dermosifiliogr*. 2010 May;101 Suppl 1:26-34. Spanish. PubMed PMID: 20492877.

4: Fleischmann R. The efficacy and safety of golimumab in the treatment of arthritis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 Jul;10(7):1131-43. PubMed PMID: 20504106.

5: Papp KA, Carey W. Psoriasis care: new and emerging pharmacologic trends. *J Cutan Med Surg*. 2010 May-Jun;14(3):119-29. PubMed PMID: 20487672.

6: Nam JL, Winthrop KL, van Vollenhoven RF, Pavelka K, Valesini G, Hensor EM, Worthy G, Landewé R, Smolen JS, Emery P, Buch MH. Current evidence for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: a systematic literature review informing the EULAR recommendations for the management of RA. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2010 Jun;69(6):976-86. Epub 2010 May 6. PubMed PMID: 20447957.

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8: Kuriya B, Arkema EV, Bykerk VP, Keystone EC. Efficacy of initial methotrexate monotherapy versus combination therapy with a biological agent in early rheumatoid arthritis: a meta-analysis of clinical and radiographic remission. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2010 Jul;69(7):1298-304. Epub 2010 Apr 26. PubMed PMID: 20421343.

9: Pollono EN, Lopez-Olivo MA, Lopez JA, Suarez-Almazor ME. A systematic review of the effect of TNF-alpha antagonists on lipid profiles in patients with

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rheumatoid arthritis. Clin Rheumatol. 2010 Apr 10. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20383550.

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12: Fleischmann R. The clinical efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol in rheumatoid arthritis. Expert Opin Biol Ther. 2010 May;10(5):773-86. Review. PubMed PMID: 20230188.

13: Bergman GJ, Hochberg MC, Boers M, Wintfeld N, Kielhorn A, Jansen JP. Indirect comparison of tocilizumab and other biologic agents in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and inadequate response to disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. Semin Arthritis Rheum. 2010 Jun;39(6):425-41. Epub 2010 Mar 11. PubMed PMID: 20223500.

14: Storage SS, Agrawal H, Furst DE. Description of the efficacy and safety of three new biologics in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Korean J Intern Med. 2010 Mar;25(1):1-17. Epub 2010 Feb 26. Review. PubMed PMID: 20195397; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2829405.

15: Lee YH, Ji JD, Bae SC, Song GG. Associations between tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) -308 and -238 G/A polymorphisms and shared epitope status and responsiveness to TNF-alpha blockers in rheumatoid arthritis: a metaanalysis update. J Rheumatol. 2010 Apr;37(4):740-6. Epub 2010 Mar 1. PubMed PMID: 20194454.

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17: McCluggage LK, Scholtz JM. Golimumab: a tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitor for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Ann Pharmacother. 2010 Jan;44(1):135-44. Review. PubMed PMID: 20118145.

18: Singh JA, Noorbaloochi S, Singh G. Golimumab for rheumatoid arthritis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Jan 20;(1):CD008341. Review. PubMed PMID: 20091667.

19: Maxwell LJ, Singh JA. Abatacept for rheumatoid arthritis: a Cochrane systematic review. J Rheumatol. 2010 Feb;37(2):234-45. Epub 2010 Jan 15. Review. Erratum in: J Rheumatol. 2010 Mar;37(3):682. PubMed PMID: 20080922.

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- 32: van Roon EN, van den Bemt PM, Jansen TL, Houtman NM, van de Laar MA, Brouwers JR. An evidence-based assessment of the clinical significance of drug-drug interactions between disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs and non-antirheumatic drugs according to rheumatologists and pharmacists. *Clin Ther*. 2009 Aug;31(8):1737-46. Review. PubMed PMID: 19808132.
- 33: Poulin Y, Langley RG, Teixeira HD, Martel MJ, Cheung S. Biologics in the treatment of psoriasis: clinical and economic overview. *J Cutan Med Surg*. 2009 Sep-Oct;13 Suppl 2:S49-57. Review. PubMed PMID: 19799827.
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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

treating rheumatoid arthritis. *Scand J Immunol.* 2009 Oct;70(4):337-44. Review. PubMed PMID: 19751268.

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40: Bansback N, Sizto S, Sun H, Feldman S, Willian MK, Anis A. Efficacy of systemic treatments for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Dermatology.* 2009;219(3):209-18. Epub 2009 Aug 5. Review. PubMed PMID: 19657180.

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Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(certolizumab OR golimumab OR ustekinumab) AND (Rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic arthritis)
Limits	Clinical Trial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]))) AND Clinical Trial[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/18/10
Total Yield	22
Total marked for retrieval	Kremer 10, Keystone 10, Griffiths 10, Emery 09, Kavanaugh 09, Gottlieb 09, Keystone 08, Papp 08, Leonardi 08, Kay 08
Notes	Updated search of abstracts 10/18/10 Searched using Cntrl F and terms "frequent" and "difference" and "common" and "NNH" and "harm" and

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	<i>“adverse”</i>
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates

1: Kremer J, Ritchlin C, Mendelsohn A, Baker D, Kim L, Xu Z, Han J, Taylor P. Golimumab, a new human anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha antibody, administered intravenously in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: Forty-eight-week efficacy and safety results of a phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2010 Apr;62(4):917-28. PubMed PMID: 20131276.

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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III trial. Lancet. 2009 Jul 18;374(9685):210-21. Epub 2009 Jun 26. Erratum in: Lancet. 2009 Oct 24;374(9699):1422. PubMed PMID: 19560810.

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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

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SEARCH 10_ tb lymph ms carcin all

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(tuberculosis OR lymphoma OR multiple sclerosis OR carcinoma OR demyelinating) AND (adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab OR ustekinumab) AND (Rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic arthritis)
Limits	Clinical trial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("tuberculosis"[MeSH Terms] OR "tuberculosis"[All Fields]) OR ("lymphoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "lymphoma"[All Fields]) OR ("multiple sclerosis"[MeSH Terms] OR ("multiple"[All Fields] AND "sclerosis"[All Fields]) OR "multiple sclerosis"[All Fields]) OR ("carcinoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "carcinoma"[All Fields]) OR demyelinating[All Fields]) AND ((("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields]) OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields]) OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields]) OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]))) AND Clinical Trial[ptyp]
Date of Search	8/18/10
Total Yield	23
Total marked for retrieval	Favalli 08, van de Kerkhof 08, Gómez-Reino 07, Burmester 07, Geborek 05, Gómez-Reino 03

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates
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1: Laffitte E, Janssens JP, Roux-Lombard P, Thielen AM, Barde C, Marazza G, Panizzon RG, Saurat JH. Tuberculosis screening in patients with psoriasis before antitumour necrosis factor therapy: comparison of an interferon-gamma release assay vs. tuberculin skin test. *Br J Dermatol.* 2009 Oct;161(4):797-800. Epub 2009 Jun 5. PubMed PMID: 19659473.

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4: Favalli EG, Desiati F, Atzeni F, Sarzi-Puttini P, Caporali R, Pallavicini FB, Gorla R, Filippini M, Marchesoni A. Serious infections during anti-TNFalpha treatment in rheumatoid arthritis patients. *Autoimmun Rev.* 2009 Jan;8(3):266-73. Epub 2008 Nov 18. PubMed PMID: 19022409.

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6: Fleischmann R, Vencovsky J, van Vollenhoven RF, Borenstein D, Box J, Coteur G, Goel N, Brezinschek HP, Innes A, Strand V. Efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol monotherapy every 4 weeks in patients with rheumatoid arthritis failing previous disease-modifying antirheumatic therapy: the FAST4WARD study. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2009 Jun;68(6):805-11. Epub 2008 Nov 17. PubMed PMID: 19015206; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2674555.

7: Zachariae C, Mørk NJ, Reunala T, Lorentzen H, Falk E, Karvonen SL, Johannesson A, Clarés B, Skov L, Mørk G, Walker S, Qvitzau S. The combination of etanercept and methotrexate increases the effectiveness of treatment in active psoriasis despite inadequate effect of methotrexate therapy. *Acta Derm Venereol.* 2008;88(5):495-501. PubMed PMID: 18779890.

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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

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Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

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SEARCH 11_all agents with hedge

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	health technology assessment* [tiab] OR "Technology Assessment, Biomedical" [mh] OR HTA [tiab] OR HTAs [tiab] AND (adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab OR ustekinumab) AND (Rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic arthritis) OR health technology appraisal*[tiab]
Limits	none
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	none
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	essment/assessment[tiab] OR health technology assessments[tiab]) OR "Technology Assessment, Biomedical"[mh] OR HTA[tiab] OR HTAs[tiab] AND (("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]))) OR health technology appraisal[tiab]
Date of Search	10/16/10
Total Yield	14
Total marked for retrieval	0
Notes	LoveMan 09 relevant but economic analysis with 4 RCTs (duplicates)
Notes	

1: Signorovitch JE, Wu EQ, Yu AP, Gerrits CM, Kantor E, Bao Y, Gupta SR, Mulani PM. Comparative effectiveness without head-to-head trials: a method for matching-adjusted indirect comparisons applied to psoriasis treatment with adalimumab or etanercept. *Pharmacoeconomics.* 2010 Oct 1;28(10):935-45. doi: 10.2165/11538370-000000000-00000. PubMed PMID: 20831302.

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

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SEARCH 12_all agents 2009 to aug 15 trials

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	OR ustekinumab) AND (Rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic arthritis)
Limits	Clinical trial
▪ Date limits	2009 through 8/15/2010
▪ Other limits	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR "arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]))) AND (Clinical Trial[ptyp] AND ("2009/01/01"[PDAT] : "2010/08/15"[PDAT]))
Date of Search	8/18/10
Total Yield	153
Total marked for retrieval	Leonardi 10, Mease 10, Menter 10, Emery 10, Kavanaugh 10, Sterry 10, Keystone 08
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates

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SEARCH 13_register infection

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	DMARDs (REGISTER or registry) serious infection
Limits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	DMARDs[All Fields] AND (("Regist Ky Hist Soc"[Journal] OR "register"[All Fields]) OR ("registries"[MeSH Terms] OR "registries"[All Fields] OR "registry"[All Fields])) AND (serious[All Fields] AND ("infection"[MeSH Terms] OR "infection"[All Fields] OR "communicable diseases"[MeSH Terms] OR ("communicable"[All Fields] AND "diseases"[All Fields]) OR "communicable diseases"[All Fields])
Date of Search	9/1210
Total Yield	5
Total marked for retrieval	Furst 10, Dixon 07, Dixon 06
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Wrong study type • Lacking safety data

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duplicates
Notes	Furst provided no comparative information.

1: Fisher MC, Greenberg JD. Assessing infection risk with biologic agents in RA: methodological challenges. *Nat Rev Rheumatol.* 2009 May;5(5):288-91. PubMed PMID: 19412196.

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5: Symmons DP, Silman AJ. The world of biologics. *Lupus.* 2006;15(3):122-6. Review. PubMed PMID: 16634363.

SEARCH 14_register infection TNF

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	serious infection AND (registry or register) AND (TNF OR biological DMARD)
Limits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date limits Other limits 	
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	(serious[All Fields] AND ("infection"[MeSH Terms] OR "infection"[All Fields] OR "communicable diseases"[MeSH Terms] OR ("communicable"[All Fields] AND "diseases"[All Fields]) OR "communicable diseases"[All Fields])) AND (("registries"[MeSH Terms] OR "registries"[All Fields] OR "registry"[All Fields]) OR ("Regist Ky Hist Soc"[Journal] OR "register"[All Fields])) AND (TNF[All Fields] OR ("biology"[MeSH Terms] OR "biology"[All Fields] OR "biological"[All Fields]) AND ("antirheumatic agents"[MeSH Terms] OR ("antirheumatic"[All Fields] AND "agents"[All Fields]) OR "antirheumatic agents"[All Fields] OR "dmard"[All Fields] OR "antirheumatic agents"[Pharmacological Action])))
Date of Search	9/13/10
Total Yield	9
Total marked for retrieval	Galloway 10, Tsiodras 08, Carmona 07, Askling 07, Listing 05
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome Superseded by more recent larger study Lacking safety data Duplicates

1: Galloway JB, Hyrich KL, Mercer LK, Dixon WG, Fu B, Ustianowski AP, Watson KD, Lunt M; BSRBR Control Centre Consortium, Symmons DP; on behalf of the British

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Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Anti-TNF therapy is associated with an increased risk of serious infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis especially in the first 6 months of treatment: updated results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register with special emphasis on risks in the elderly. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2010 Jul 31. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20675706.

2: Katikireddi VS, Whittle SL, Hill CL. Tumour necrosis factor inhibitors and risk of serious infection in rheumatoid arthritis. *Int J Rheum Dis*. 2010 Feb 1;13(1):12-26. Review. PubMed PMID: 20374381.

3: Furst DE. The risk of infections with biologic therapies for rheumatoid arthritis. *Semin Arthritis Rheum*. 2010 Apr;39(5):327-46. Epub 2008 Dec 31. Review. PubMed PMID: 19117595.

4: Tsiodras S, Samonis G, Boumpas DT, Kontoyiannis DP. Fungal infections complicating tumor necrosis factor alpha blockade therapy. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2008 Feb;83(2):181-94. Review. PubMed PMID: 18241628.

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7: Dixon WG, Watson K, Lunt M, Hyrich KL, Silman AJ, Symmons DP; British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Rates of serious infection, including site-specific and bacterial intracellular infection, in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy: results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2006 Aug;54(8):2368-76. PubMed PMID: 16868999.

8: Symmons DP, Silman AJ. The world of biologics. *Lupus*. 2006;15(3):122-6. Review. PubMed PMID: 16634363.

9: Listing J, Strangfeld A, Kary S, Rau R, von Hinueber U, Stoyanova-Scholz M, Gromnica-Ihle E, Antoni C, Herzer P, Kekow J, Schneider M, Zink A. Infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with biologic agents. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2005 Nov;52(11):3403-12. PubMed PMID: 16255017.

SEARCH 15_CERTOLIZUMAB SR

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	certolizumab
Limits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	Systematic review
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) AND systematic[sb]
Date of Search	10/4/2010
Total Yield	11
Total marked for retrieval	Fleishman 10, Statkute 10

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Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates
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1: Nam JL, Winthrop KL, van Vollenhoven RF, Pavelka K, Valesini G, Hensor EM, Worthy G, Landewé R, Smolen JS, Emery P, Buch MH. Current evidence for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: a systematic literature review informing the EULAR recommendations for the management of RA. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2010 Jun;69(6):976-86. Epub 2010 May 6. Review. PubMed PMID: 20447957.

2: Fleischmann R. The clinical efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol in rheumatoid arthritis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 May;10(5):773-86. Review. PubMed PMID: 20230188.

3: Oussalah A, Danese S, Peyrin-Biroulet L. Efficacy of TNF antagonists beyond one year in adult and pediatric inflammatory bowel diseases: a systematic review. *Curr Drug Targets*. 2010 Feb;11(2):156-75. Review. PubMed PMID: 20210765.

4: Smith LS, Nelson M, Dolder CR. Certolizumab pegol: a TNF- α antagonist for the treatment of moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease. *Ann Pharmacother*. 2010 Feb;44(2):333-42. Epub 2010 Jan 5. Review. PubMed PMID: 20118143.

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11: D'Haens G, Daperno M. Advances in biologic therapy for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. *Curr Gastroenterol Rep*. 2006 Dec;8(6):506-12. Review. PubMed PMID: 17105690.

SEARCH 16 all REGISTER

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab

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	OR ustekinumab) AND (register or registry)
Limits	none
▪ Date limits	none
▪ Other limits	none
▪ Number of hits	172
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND ("Regist Ky Hist Soc"[Journal] OR "register"[All Fields]) OR ("registries"[MeSH Terms] OR "registries"[All Fields]) OR "registry"[All Fields]))
Date of Search	10/6/10
Total marked for retrieval	Virriki 10, Favalli 10, Galloway 10, Uhlenhake 10, Saad 10, Askling 05, Askling 09, Hetland 10, Dixon 10, Schmitt 09, Tubach 06, Listing 08, Mariette 10, Marchesoni 09, Tubach 09, Favalli 08, Gómez-Reino 07, Wolfe 07b, Jacobsson 07, Wolfe 04
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates

1: van Luijn J, Danz M, Bijlsma J, Gribnau F, Leufkens H. Post-approval trials of new medicines: widening use or deepening knowledge? Analysis of 10 years of etanercept. *Scand J Rheumatol*. 2010 Sep 21. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20858147.

2: van der Velde G, Pham B, Machado M, Ieraci L, Witteman W, Bombardier C, Krahn M. Cost-effectiveness of biologic response modifiers compared to disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs for rheumatoid arthritis: A systematic review. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2010 Aug 25. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20740606.

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6: Galloway JB, Hyrich KL, Mercer LK, Dixon WG, Fu B, Ustianowski AP, Watson KD, Lunt M; BSRBR Control Centre Consortium, Symmons DP; on behalf of the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Anti-TNF therapy is associated with an increased risk of serious infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis especially in the first 6 months of treatment: updated results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register with special emphasis on risks in the

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elderly. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2010 Jul 31. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20675706.

7: Giannini EH, Ilowite NT, Lovell DJ, Wallace CA, Rabinovich CE, Reiff A, Higgins G, Gottlieb B, Chon Y, Zhang N, Baumgartner SW; for the Pediatric Rheumatology Collaborative Study Group. Effects of long-term etanercept treatment on growth in children with selected categories of juvenile idiopathic arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2010 Jul 28. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20669280.

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9: Van Lümig PP, Lecluse LL, Driessen RJ, Spuls PI, Boezeman JB, van de Kerkhof PC, De Jong EM. Switching from etanercept to adalimumab is effective and safe: results in 30 patients with psoriasis with primary failure, secondary failure or intolerance to etanercept. *Br J Dermatol*. 2010 Oct;163(4):838-46. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2133.2010.09950.x. Epub 2010 Sep 2. PubMed PMID: 20649798.

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15: Glintborg B, Ostergaard M, Krogh NS, Dreyer L, Kristensen HL, Hetland ML. Predictors of treatment response and drug continuation in 842 patients with ankylosing spondylitis treated with anti-tumour necrosis factor: results from 8 years' surveillance in the Danish nationwide DANBIO registry. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2010 May 28. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 20511613.

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for the treatment of psoriasis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 Jul;10(7):1105-12. Review. PubMed PMID: 20446825.

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22: Saad AA, Ashcroft DM, Watson KD, Symmons DP, Noyce PR, Hyrich KL; British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. Improvements in quality of life and functional status in patients with psoriatic arthritis receiving anti-tumor necrosis factor therapies. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2010 Mar;62(3):345-53. PubMed PMID: 20391480; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2909400.

23: Lv D, Song H, Shi G. Anti-TNF-alpha treatment for pelvic pain associated with endometriosis. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2010 Mar 17;3:CD008088. Review. PubMed PMID: 20238362.

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31: Hetland ML, Christensen IJ, Tarp U, Dreyer L, Hansen A, Hansen IT, Kollerup G, Linde L, Lindegaard HM, Poulsen UE, Schlemmer A, Jensen DV, Jensen S, Hostenkamp G, Østergaard M; All Departments of Rheumatology in Denmark. Direct comparison of treatment responses, remission rates, and drug adherence in

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with adalimumab, etanercept, or infliximab: results from eight years of surveillance of clinical practice in the nationwide Danish DANBIO registry. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2010 Jan;62(1):22-32. PubMed PMID: 20039405.

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SEARCH 17 meta all agents 9-14 update

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab OR ustekinumab
Limits	none
▪ Date limits	none
▪ Other limits	Meta-analysis
▪ Number of hits	68
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("adalimumab"[Substance Name] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance Name] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance Name] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND Meta-Analysis[ptyp]
Date of Search	10/14/10
Marked for retrieval	Bongartz 06
Exclusions	-Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome -Superseded by more recent larger study -Lacking safety data -Duplicates

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SEARCH 18 SR cert gol ustek

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(certolizumab OR golimumab OR ustekinumab
Limits	none
▪ Date limits	none
▪ Other limits	SR
▪ Number of hits	25
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("CDP870"[Substance Name] OR "CDP870"[All Fields] OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance Name] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance Name] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields]) AND systematic[sb]
Date of Search	10/14/10
Total marked for retrieval	Fleischmann 10, Zidi 10
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates
Notes	Relevant studies are all duplicates.

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Most recent review golimumab; ordered

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Recent golimumab; retrieved; critiqued

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10: Fleischmann R. The clinical efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol in rheumatoid arthritis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 May;10(5):773-86. Review. PubMed PMID: 20230188.
Most recent review certolizumab; RA; ordered

11: Oussalah A, Danese S, Peyrin-Biroulet L. Efficacy of TNF antagonists beyond one year in adult and pediatric inflammatory bowel diseases: a systematic review. *Curr Drug Targets*. 2010 Feb;11(2):156-75. Review. PubMed PMID: 20210765.

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13: McCluggage LK, Scholtz JM. Golimumab: a tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitor for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Pharmacother*. 2010 Jan;44(1):135-44. Review. PubMed PMID: 20118145.

14: Smith LS, Nelson M, Dolder CR. Certolizumab pegol: a TNF- α antagonist for the treatment of moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease. *Ann Pharmacother*. 2010 Feb;44(2):333-42. Epub 2010 Jan 5. Review. PubMed PMID: 20118143.

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16: Statkute L, Ruderman EM. Novel TNF antagonists for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Expert Opin Investig Drugs*. 2010 Jan;19(1):105-15. Review. PubMed PMID: 20001558.

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23: Hirohata S. [Fully human anti TNF-alpha monoclonal antibodies (adalimumab, golimumab)]. Nippon Rinsho. 2007 Jul;65(7):1202-8. Review. Japanese. PubMed PMID: 17642233.

24: Rahimi R, Nikfar S, Abdollahi M. Do anti-tumor necrosis factors induce response and remission in patients with acute refractory Crohn's disease? A systematic meta-analysis of controlled clinical trials. Biomed Pharmacother. 2007 Jan;61(1):75-80. Epub 2006 Dec 4. PubMed PMID: 17184965.

25: D'Haens G, Daperno M. Advances in biologic therapy for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Curr Gastroenterol Rep. 2006 Dec;8(6):506-12. Review. PubMed PMID: 17105690.

SEARCH 19 all agents condits SR update

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(adalimumab OR certolizumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab OR ustekinumab) AND (Rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic arthritis)
Limits	Systematic Review
▪ Date limits	None
▪ Other limits	None
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("adalimumab"[Supplementary Concept] OR "CDP870"[Supplementary Concept] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Supplementary Concept] OR "golimumab"[Supplementary Concept] OR "infliximab"[Supplementary Concept] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Supplementary Concept]) AND (("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]))) AND systematic[sb]
Date of Search	1/31/11
Total Yield	142
Total marked for retrieval	No new studies
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates
Notes	Many duplicates Donahue 08 full text review: no additional useful AE data.

1: Papoutsaki M, Talamonti M, Giunta A, Costanzo A, Ruzzetti M, Teoli M, Chimenti

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5. The impact of methodological approaches for presenting long-term clinical data on estimates of efficacy in psoriasis illustrated by three-year treatment data on infliximab. *Dermatology*. 2010;221 Suppl 1:43-7. Epub 2010 Aug 9. PubMed PMID: 20733314.
- 2: Arcese A, Aste N, Bettacchi A, Camplone G, Cantoresi F, Caproni M, D'Amico D, Fabbri P, Filosa G, Galluccio A, Hansel K, Lisi P, Micali G, Musumeci ML, Nicolini M, Parodi A, Patania M, Pezza M, Potenza C, Richetta A, Simonacci M, Trevisan P, Valenti G, Calvieri S. Treating psoriasis with etanercept in italian clinical practice: prescribing practices and duration of remission following discontinuation. *Clin Drug Investig*. 2010;30(8):507-16. doi: 10.2165/11537470-000000000-00000. PubMed PMID: 20586516.
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- 6: Uhlenhake EE, Feldman SR. Efficacy and safety of ustekinumab and etanercept for the treatment of psoriasis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 Jul;10(7):1105-12. Review. PubMed PMID: 20446825.
- 7: Singh JA, Noorbaloochi S, Singh G. Golimumab for rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review. *J Rheumatol*. 2010 Jun;37(6):1096-104. Epub 2010 May 1. Review. PubMed PMID: 20436075.
- 8: Pollono EN, Lopez-Olivo MA, Lopez JA, Suarez-Almazor ME. A systematic review of the effect of TNF-alpha antagonists on lipid profiles in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Clin Rheumatol*. 2010 Sep;29(9):947-55. Epub 2010 Apr 10. Review. PubMed PMID: 20383550.
- 9: Bojke L, Claxton K, Bravo-Vergel Y, Sculpher M, Palmer S, Abrams K. Eliciting distributions to populate decision analytic models. *Value Health*. 2010 Aug;13(5):557-64. Epub 2010 Mar 22. PubMed PMID: 20345548.
- 10: Wiens A, Venson R, Correr CJ, Otuki MF, Pontarolo R. Meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2010 Apr;30(4):339-53. Review. PubMed PMID: 20334454.
- 11: Fleischmann R. The clinical efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol in rheumatoid arthritis. *Expert Opin Biol Ther*. 2010 May;10(5):773-86. Review. PubMed PMID: 20230188.
- 12: Storage SS, Agrawal H, Furst DE. Description of the efficacy and safety of three new biologics in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Korean J Intern Med*. 2010 Mar;25(1):1-17. Epub 2010 Feb 26. Review. PubMed PMID: 20195397; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2829405.
- 13: Lee YH, Ji JD, Bae SC, Song GG. Associations between tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) -308 and -238 G/A polymorphisms and shared epitope status and responsiveness to TNF-alpha blockers in rheumatoid arthritis: a metaanalysis update. *J Rheumatol*. 2010 Apr;37(4):740-6. Epub 2010 Mar 1. PubMed PMID: 20194454.

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14: McCluggage LK, Scholtz JM. Golimumab: a tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitor for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2010 Jan;44(1):135-44. Review. PubMed PMID: 20118145.

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SEARCH 20 all agent FUNGAL NOT TB

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	fungal infections AND (adalimumab OR certolimumab OR etanercept OR golimumab OR infliximab OR ustekinumab) AND english [lang]
Limits	NONE
▪ Date limits	None
▪ Other limits	None
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("mycoses"[MeSH Terms] OR "mycoses"[All Fields] OR ("fungal"[All Fields] AND "infections"[All Fields]) OR "fungal infections"[All Fields]) AND (("adalimumab"[Substance] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR certolimumab[All Fields] OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND english[lang]
Date of Search	1/7/11
Total Yield	116
Marked for retrieval	Weinblatt 10, Salmon-Ceron 10, Gottlieb 03
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Wrong study type • Duplicates

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SEARCH 21_ ustekinumab_ psoriatic arthritis trials

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	ustekinumab AND psoriatic arthritis
Limits	Systematic Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	Clinical trials
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields]) AND ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields]))) AND Clinical Trial[ptyp])
Date of Search	1/14/11
Total Yield	2
Total marked for retrieval	Gottlieb 09
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Primary Studies: Yield and Dispositions

1: Zhu YW, Mendelsohn A, Pendley C, Davis HM, Zhou H. Population pharmacokinetics of ustekinumab in patients with active psoriatic arthritis. Int J Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2010 Dec;48(12):830-46. PubMed PMID: 21084039.

2: Gottlieb A, Menter A, Mendelsohn A, Shen YK, Li S, Guzzo C, Fretzin S, Kunynetz R, Kavanaugh A. Ustekinumab, a human interleukin 12/23 monoclonal antibody, for psoriatic arthritis: randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover trial. Lancet. 2009 Feb 21;373(9664):633-40. Epub 2009 Feb 11. Erratum in: Lancet. 2010 Nov 6;376(9752):1542. Lancet. 2009 Apr 18;373(9672):1340. PubMed PMID: 19217154.

SEARCH 22_5 agents_ psoriatic arthritis RCTs

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(Adalimumab OR Etanercept OR Golimumab OR Infliximab OR Ustekinumab) AND psoriatic arthritis AND english [lang]
Limits	RCT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	Clinical trials
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("adalimumab"[Substance] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc

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	fusion protein"[Substance] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("golimumab"[Substance] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) AND english[lang] AND Randomized Controlled Trial[ptyp]
Date of Search	1/14/11
Total Yield	40
Total marked for retrieval	Sterry 10, Mease 08, Kavanaugh 09, Antoni 08, Menter 06
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Wrong study type • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Primary Studies: Yield and Dispositions

1: Zhu YW, Mendelsohn A, Pendley C, Davis HM, Zhou H. Population pharmacokinetics of ustekinumab in patients with active psoriatic arthritis. *Int J Clin Pharmacol Ther.* 2010 Dec;48(12):830-46. PubMed PMID: 21084039.

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Arthritis Controlled Trial (IMPACT). *J Rheumatol*. 2008 May;35(5):869-76. Epub 2008 Mar 15. PubMed PMID: 18381786.

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SEARCH 23_5 agents_ psoriatic arthritis SR

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	(Adalimumab OR Etanercept OR Golimumab OR Infliximab OR Ustekinumab) AND psoriatic arthritis AND english [lang]
Limits	Systematic Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date limits ▪ Other limits 	Systematic Review
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	((("adalimumab"[Substance] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields] OR ("golimumab"[Substance] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields])) AND ("arthritis, psoriatic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "psoriatic"[All Fields]) OR "psoriatic arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("psoriatic"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) AND english[lang] AND systematic[sb])
Date of Search	1/14/11
Total Yield	26
Total marked for retrieval	0
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not focus of review: population, intervention, comparison, outcome • Superseded by more recent larger study • Lacking safety data • Duplicates

Secondary Studies: Yield and Dispositions

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SEARCH 24 all infus inject

Category	Description
Clinical question or focus	BIOLOGICAL AGENTS FINAL
Source	PubMed
Terms	rheumatoid arthritis OR psoriasis OR psoriatic AND injection site reaction OR infusion reaction (etanercept OR adalimumab OR infliximab OR certolizumab OR golimumab OR ustekinumab OR etanercept)
Limits	
▪ Date limits	None
▪ Other limits	None
Query Translation (eg, "Details" in PubMed)	("arthritis, rheumatoid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("arthritis"[All Fields] AND "rheumatoid"[All Fields]) OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[All Fields] OR ("rheumatoid"[All Fields] AND "arthritis"[All Fields])) OR ("psoriasis"[MeSH Terms] OR "psoriasis"[All Fields]) OR psoriatic[All Fields] AND (("injections"[MeSH Terms] OR "injections"[All Fields] OR "injection"[All Fields]) AND site[All Fields] AND reaction[All Fields]) OR (infusion[All Fields] AND reaction[All Fields]) AND (("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields]) OR ("adalimumab"[Substance] OR "adalimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("infliximab"[Substance] OR "infliximab"[All Fields]) OR ("CDP870"[Substance] OR "CDP870"[All Fields]) OR "certolizumab"[All Fields]) OR

Systematic Review of Safety of Biologic Agents in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis: Six Agents

	("golimumab"[Substance] OR "golimumab"[All Fields]) OR ("monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[Substance] OR "monoclonal antibody CNTO 1275"[All Fields] OR "ustekinumab"[All Fields]) OR ("TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[Substance] OR "TNFR-Fc fusion protein"[All Fields] OR "etanercept"[All Fields])
Date of Search	1/21/11
Total Yield	134
Total marked for retrieval	Thaler 09
Duplicates	Multiple
Notes	Usual exclusions

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VII. REFERENCES

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