

Response to: 'Effects of colchicine on risk of cardiovascular events among patients with gout: as evidence accrues, is it time for a randomized trial?' by Giannopoulos and Deftereos

We appreciate the interest of Drs Giannopoulos and Deftereos¹ in our recent paper;² they have been focused on colchicine's potential effects in cardiovascular disease in the general population. They inquired about the dosage, duration and indication for colchicine in our cohort. The mean dosage was approximately 0.5 mg per day, with some patients using it every other day and some twice daily. The median duration of colchicine users was approximately 1 year, but many did use it for shorter periods. We do not have information on the indications for use in our database but agree that the cardiovascular effects may differ based on its use for acute attacks or chronic prophylaxis. While we agree with Giannopoulos and Deftereos that mounting a randomised controlled clinical trial is difficult, several trials are currently enrolling non-gout patients testing the potential benefits of colchicine for secondary cardiovascular prevention (clinical trial # NCT02551094 and # NCT01906749). We believe that similar trials could be considered in patients with gout in whom colchicine is not infrequently part of chronic care.

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