



Cover image: FOXP3+ cells in synovial tissue from two patients with rheumatoid arthritis. See p1913

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### Editorial

- 1797** Quality indicators in rheumatology: valid for whom?  
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- 1800** Use of "spydergrams" to present and interpret SF-36 health-related quality of life data across rheumatic diseases  
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### Clinical and epidemiological research

- 1805** Development of quality indicators for monitoring of the disease course in rheumatoid arthritis  
*L T C van Hulst, J Fransen, A A den Broeder, R Grol, P L C M van Riel, M E J L Hulshof*

- 1811** ASDAS, a highly discriminatory ASAS-endorsed disease activity score in patients with ankylosing spondylitis  
*D van der Heijde, E Lie, T K Kvien, J Sieper, F Van den Bosch, J Listing, J Braun, R Landewé, for the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS)*

- 1819** Malignancies in the rheumatoid arthritis abatacept clinical development programme: an epidemiological assessment  
*T A Simon, A L Smitten, J Franklin, J Askling, D Lacaille, F Wolfe, M C Hochberg, K Qi, S Suissa*

- 1827** Modification and validation of the Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score (version 3)  
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- 1833** Adverse events of low- to medium-dose oral glucocorticoids in inflammatory diseases: a meta-analysis  
*J N Hoes, J W G Jacobs, S M M Verstappen, J W J Bijlsma, G J M G Van der Heijden*

- 1839** Ankylosing spondylitis and the risk of fracture: results from a large primary care-based nested case-control study  
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- 1843** Efficacy and safety of steroid injections for shoulder and elbow tendonitis: a meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials  
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- 1850** Reliability of high-resolution ultrasonography in the assessment of Achilles tendon enthesopathy in seronegative spondyloarthropathies  
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- 1856** Comparative effectiveness of tumour necrosis factor  $\alpha$  inhibitors in combination with either methotrexate or leflunomide  
*A Strangfeld, F Hierse, J Kekow, U von Hinueber, H-P Tony, R Dockhorn, J Listing, A Zink*

- 1863** Adalimumab safety and mortality rates from global clinical trials of six immune-mediated inflammatory diseases  
*G R Burmester, P Mease, B A C Dijkmans, K Gordon, D Lovell, R Panaccione, J Perez, A L Pangan*

- 1870** Clinical efficacy and safety of abatacept in methotrexate-naïve patients with early rheumatoid arthritis and poor prognostic factors  
*R Westhovens, M Robles, A C Ximenes, S Nayiager, J Wollenhaupt, P Durez, J Gomez-Reino, W Grassi, B Haraoui, W Shergy, S-H Park, H Genant, C Peterfy, J-C Becker, A Covucci, R Helfrick, J Bathon*

- 1878** Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging in systemic sclerosis: a cross-sectional observational study of 52 patients  
*A-L Hachulla, D Launay, V Gaxotte, P de Groot, N Lamblin, P Devos, P-Y Hatron, J-P Beregi, E Hachulla*

- 1885** N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide in systemic sclerosis: a new cornerstone of cardiovascular assessment?  
*Y Allanore, K Wahbi, D Borderie, S Weber, A Kahan, C Meune*

- 1890** Natural course of knee osteoarthritis in middle-aged subjects with knee pain: 12-year follow-up using clinical and radiographic criteria  
*C A Thorstensson, M L E Andersson, H Jönsson, T Saxne, I F Petersson*

- 1894** Safety of biological therapies following rituximab treatment in rheumatoid arthritis patients  
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**1898** Bone loss in patients with active early rheumatoid arthritis: infliximab and methotrexate compared with methotrexate treatment alone. Explorative analysis from a 12-month randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study  
*G Haugeberg, P G Conaghan, M Quinn, P Emery*

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**1902** Effects of *Porphyromonas gingivalis* on cell cycle progression and apoptosis of primary human chondrocytes

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**1908** FOXP3 expression in blood, synovial fluid and synovial tissue during inflammatory arthritis and intra-articular corticosteroid treatment

*S Raghavan, D Cao, M Widhe, K Roth, J Herrath, M Engström, G Roncador, A H Banham, C Trollmo, A I Carrina, V Malmström*

**1916** Association of the *DVWA* and *GDF5* polymorphisms with osteoarthritis in UK populations

*A M Valdes, T D Spector, S Doherty, M Wheeler, D J Hart, M Doherty*

**1921** Association study of a polymorphism of the *CTGF* gene and susceptibility to systemic sclerosis in the Japanese population

*Y Kawaguchi, Y Ota, M Kawamoto, I Ito, N Tsuchiya, T Sugiura, Y Katsumata, M Soejima, S Sato, M Hasegawa, M Fujimoto, K Takehara, M Kuwana, H Yamanaka, M Hara*

**1925** Definition of arthritis candidate risk genes by combining rat linkage-mapping results with human case-control association data

*L Bäckdahl, J P Guo, M Jagodic, K Becanovic, B Ding, T Olsson, J C Lorentzen*

### Letters

**1933** Targeted delivery of liposomal dexamethasone phosphate to the spleen provides a persistent therapeutic effect in rat antigen-induced arthritis

*U Rauchhaus, R W Kinne, D Pohlers, S Wiegand, A Wölfert, M Gajda, R Bräuer, S Panzner*

**1934** Anti-tumour necrosis factor  $\alpha$  therapy in patients with rheumatoid arthritis results in a significant and long-lasting decrease of concomitant glucocorticoid treatment

*L Naumann, D Huscher, J Detert, M Spengler, G-R Burmester, F Buttgerit*

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