Figure 1. Unconjugated bilirubin by UGT1A1 genotype (rs64742078) in patients treated with A) Sarilumab + MTX and B) Placebo + MTX

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FRI0229 SURVEY ON TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF BIOLOGICAL THERAPIES BY PATIENTS

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Background: in order to ensure the pharmacological action of thermolabile drugs, it is mandatory to keep the cold chain unbroken from manufacturing to administration since lack of observance of these rules may compromise their efficacy. (1,2)

Objectives: to ascertain key aspects of transportation and storage of Biological Therapy (BT) on the part of the patients.

Methods: survey among outpatients who either were treated in the centre or attended the centre for the administration of a BT. Inclusion criteria encompassed patients of over 18 years of age, who were receiving a BT (at least one dose over the last 12 months) whose patient information leaflet indicated, "... must be refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). Do not freeze." The survey comprised 31 questions about transportation and storage of the BT from the moment of collection from the pharmacy to its administration. This study was approved by the Bioethics Committee. Every patient signed an informed consent form.

Results: Eighty-three patients were interviewed (76% female and 24% males), their average age was 53 years old, 60% had Rheumatoid Arthritis, 24% Psoriatic Arthritis, and 16% sustained other conditions. Sixty-four percent were undergoing BT for the first time. Forty-eight percent were enrolled in a patient assistance programme.

Had patients been fully informed of the importance of proper transportation and storage of the drug? No, 20% acknowledged that the first time they dealt with a BT, they had not been made aware of the relevance of its correct preservation.

Are patients administered the BT immediately after collecting it from the pharmacy? No, 77% collected the drug at least 7 days before administration and though they received the BT in a cooler with ice packs (except in 5 cases) 71% was uninformed of how long it could be kept in this condition.

Is the BT duly stored in the patient's refrigerator? No, 28% misplaced the drug (65% in the freezer), and 90% did not know the temperature range at which it should be kept in the fridge. Only 1 patient used a thermometer to control the appliance temperature.

Is there another crucial point as to BT storage at home? Yes, 53% of the 83

patients had experienced frequent power cuts in summer; out of these, 59% on a weekly basis. Forty percent of the 83 patients had power cuts of over 12 hours, 28% of over 24 hours, and 22% of over 48 hours. Out of the 83 patients, 37% took the BT to another house to avoid wasting it, and 4 had to dispose of it due to a protracted power cut. Five patients were away from home for over 48 hours during which the BT was in the fridge and they had not assigned another person to take care of the drug during their absence.

Is the BT removed from the fridge only for its immediate administration? No, 46% of the respondents travelled to a centre, half of them for over an hour, carrying the BT.

Conclusions: before administering a BT, it is imperative to brief patients on suitable transportation and storage methods. Thus, treatment failure should prompt a thorough assessment of transportation and storage conditions.

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FRI0230 RETENTION RATES OF TNF INHIBITORS AND ABATACEPT USED AS A FIRST BIOLOGIC DMARD IN THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: 8 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE FROM THE RHUMADATA® REGISTRY

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Background: Sustainability of treatment is important to consider when selecting a therapy for chronic conditions such as RA. Sustainability is a useful clinical marker for both long-term efficacy and safety. A recently published randomized controlled trial has demonstrated similar efficacy and safety profiles between abatacept (ABA) and adalimumab over 2 years.^{1,2}

Objectives: To assess the long-term sustainability of ABA and anti-TNFs following treatment failure with a conventional synthetic DMARD (csDMARD) in comparable cohorts of patients (pts) with RA.

Methods: Data from pts with RA seen at two tertiary centres and prescribed either ABA or a TNF inhibitor (adalimumab, certolizumab, etanercept, golimumab or infliximab) as their first biologic (b)DMARD after 1 January 2006 were extracted from the RHUMADATA® registry. The choice of therapy was a joint decision between the pt and the treating physician. Pts were followed until either they discontinued treatment, were lost to follow-up or the cut-off date of 9 January 2017. Pt baseline characteristics were compared using descriptive statistics and the cumulative incidence of biologic agent discontinuation using Kaplan-Meier methods. Overall differences in the discontinuation rates of biologic agents were tested using the log-rank test.

Results: Overall, 641 pts met study criteria; 82 pts received ABA and 559 TNF inhibitors (adalimumab=136, certolizumab=52, etanercept=226, golimumab=88 and infliximab=57) as first-line treatment following inadequate response to csDMARDs. No clinically significant differences in baseline characteristics were noted between treatment groups. Most pts were diagnosed after January 2000 (72.5%) and were women (77.5%). Average age at diagnosis was 47.1 (SD=13.4) years, with a mean disease duration of 7.2 (7.8) years, and a mean CDAI of 43.1 (32.5) at baseline. No significant differences in retention rates were observed in the ABA and anti-TNF groups (Table, Figure). On average, pts treated with anti-TNFs and ABA maintained their treatment for 1.59 (1.91) and 1.90 (2.08) years, respectively. Lack of efficacy (47.6%) and adverse effects (22.0%) were the most commonly cited reasons for treatment discontinuation.

Table 1. Retention of the first bDMARD

	TNFi	Abatacept
Biologic retention probability at*:		
12 Months	71.66% (1.92%)	70.71% (5.15%)
24 Months	59.85% (2.11%)	62.16% (5.60%)
60 Months	44.28% (2.26%)	48.37% (6.75%)
96 Months	35.29% (2.46%)	41.17% (7.43%)
bDMARD retention time (years)		
Mean (SE)	4.83 (0.18)	4.71 (0.45)
Lower quartile, (95% CI)	0.86 (0.72-1.00)	0.86 (0.50-1.24)
Median, (95% CI)	3.83 (2.87-4.67)	4.53 (2.34-++)

*% (% standard error) survival.

Conclusions: Abatacept and TNF inhibitors demonstrate similar sustainability at 8-year, supporting studies^{1,2} that demonstrate that abatacept used after csDMARDs inadequate response is as safe and effective as a TNF targeting agents in the long term.