spondyloarthritis, axSPA) and infliximab trough levels, and the occurrence of adverse events.

Results: 260 patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria: 182 patients followed-up in Rheumatology (131 with axSPA, 31 with RA, and 20 with other inflammatory rheumatic diseases), 64 in Gastroenterology and 14 in Internal Medicine.

The retention rate at the time of the third biosimilar infusion was 82% (149/182 patients), which was lower than the rate observed in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases or uveitis followed-up in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine, respectively (71/78 patients, 91%).

Between baseline and the last visit (mean follow-up: 34±4.5 weeks), 48/182 (26%) patients, including 36 patients with axSPA, discontinued biosimilar infliximab, mainly due to experienced inefficacy (n=47). No clinical or biological factors were associated with biosimilar discontinuation.

One infusion reaction led to treatment discontinuation. No serious adverse events occurred. 43 patients restarted innovator infliximab, 2 patients switched to etanercept, 1 to abatacept and 2 maintained biological-free.

In RA patients, the mean DAS28-CRP remained stable from baseline to the last visit: 3.38±1.16 to 3.08±1.08 (p=0.217). In axSPA patients, the mean BASDAI increased from 2.94±2.20 to 3.18±2.21 (p=0.046) and the mean ASDAS increased from 1.79±0.90 to 1.99±1.08 (p=0.022). In RA and axSPA, mean CRP levels at baseline (5.95±6.06 and 5.98±11.14 mg/l respectively) and the last visit (6.52±11.32 and 5.03±8.26 mg/l respectively) were not statistically different (p=0.289 and p=0.271, respectively).

Mean infliximab trough levels were similar in patients with RA (3.70±5.36 vs. 3.21±4.35 µg/ml, p=0.551) and AxSPA (5.88±5.82 vs. 5.70±5.42 µg/ml, p=0.617) during follow-up.

Conclusions: In the majority of patients, innovator infliximab can be switched to biosimilar infliximab without changes in efficacy and safety during 34 weeks follow-up. However, 26% of patients discontinued biosimilar infliximab, mainly those with AxSPA due to a subjective increase in BASDAI or ASDAS scores, possibly explained by suggestion or attribution effects rather than pharmacological differences.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

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SAT0164 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FLARE AND RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

J.S. Smolen¹, H. Jones², E. Mahgoub², R. Pedersen², L. Marshall². ¹Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; ²Pfizer, Collegeville, United States

Background: Biologic therapy has improved RA management, enabling some patients to achieve remission. Many clinicians decrease the biologic dose for patients in low disease activity (LDA) or remission. However, it is unclear which patients may flare and if flare contributes to radiographic progression.

Objectives: To assess whether patients who flared had a higher incidence of radiographic progression, and to compare patients with and without flares.

Methods: PRESERVE (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT00565409) was a 2-period trial in patients with moderate RA despite MTX. Period 1 was open-label, single treatment induction with etanercept (ETN) 50mg+MTX weekly (QW) for 36 wks. Patients in LDA or remission (disease activity score for 28 joints [DAS28] ≤3.2) during wks 12 to 36 continued to Period 2, the randomized, double-blind phase to evaluate maintenance of LDA/remission. Patients were randomized to ETN 50mg+MTX QW, ETN 25mg+MTX QW, or placebo+MTX QW to wk 88. This post hoc analysis evaluated flare and radiographic progression at wk 88. Flare was defined 2 ways: 1) loss of LDA with/without DAS28 change of 0.6; and 2) relapse (DAS28>5.1 or DAS28>3.2 at ≥2 time points). Radiographic progression was evaluated according to 4 levels of stringency: 1) minimally clinically important difference (modified total Sharp score [mTSS] change ≥5); 2) smallest detectable difference (mTSS change ≥2.3); 3) mTSS change ≥0.5; and 4) mTSS change >0. Baseline (BL) characteristics were compared for patients with vs without flare, defined as loss of LDA and DAS28 change of 0.6. Analysis of covariance and chi-square test compared continuous and categorical outcomes, respectively.

Results: Age, race, BMI, and disease duration did not differ significantly for flare vs non-flare, total N=531. BL DAS28 was higher for flare vs non-flare: mean (SD)

Table. Radiographic progression at week 88

Outcome	Flare Patients	Non-flare Patients	P-value*
Flare defined as loss of LDA and DAS28 change of 0.6			
mTSS >0	43/271 (15.9)	31/260 (11.9)	0.2109
mTSS ≥0.5	38/271 (14.0)	24/260 (9.2)	0.1045
mTSS ≥2.3	20/271 (7.4)	10/260 (3.8)	0.0914
mTSS ≥5.0	9/271 (3.3)	2/260 (0.8)	0.0633
Flare defined as loss of LDA			
mTSS >0	44/280 (15.7)	30/251 (12.0)	0.2586
mTSS ≥0.5	39/280 (13.9)	23/251 (9.2)	0.1043
mTSS ≥2.3	20/280 (7.1)	10/251 (4.0)	0.1338
mTSS ≥5.0	9/280 (3.2)	2/251 (0.8)	0.0670
Flare defined as relapse			
mTSS >0	35/181 (19.3)	39/350 (11.1)	0.0119
mTSS ≥0.5	31/181 (17.1)	31/350 (8.9)	0.0065
mTSS ≥2.3	19/181 (10.5)	11/350 (3.1)	0.0011
mTSS ≥5.0	9/181 (5.0)	2/350 (0.6)	0.0015

*Fisher's exact test. Overall treatment group. Values are n/N (%).

4.37 (0.45) vs 4.27 (0.45), p=0.046. Other BL disease characteristics were similar between groups. With flare defined as relapse, significantly more flare than non-flare patients showed all 4 degrees of radiographic progression (table). With flare defined as LDA loss with/without DAS28 change of 0.6, radiographic progression did not differ significantly between groups, but numerically more patients with flare progressed. This was the trend for all treatments; the numbers were too small to analyze. Numerically more placebo patients progressed, regardless of flare status or progression category (data not shown).

Conclusions: Using relapse as a rigorous definition of flare, radiographic progression occurs in significantly more flare than non-flare patients, demonstrating that it is a consequence of flare following biologic withdrawal.

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SAT0165 REAL-WORLD UTILIZATION OF CONCOMITANT MEDICATIONS IN PATIENTS INITIATING ETANERCEPT: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY OF CANADIAN CLAIMS-LEVEL DATA

M. Khraishi¹, Y. Zhang², J. Ivanovic², B. Millson², M.-J. Brabant², E. Singh³, J. Woolcott⁴, H. Jones³. ¹Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. Johns; ²Health Access & Outcomes, QuintilesIMS, Kanata, Canada; ³Inflammation and Immunology, Global Medical Affairs, Pfizer Inc., Collegeville, United States; ⁴Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Pfizer Inc., Kirkland, Canada

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) and prednisone (pred) are immune suppressants frequently used to treat immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs). Etanercept is a soluble TNF receptor (humanized protein) indicated for the treatment of IMIDs, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), psoriasis (PsO), and ankylosing spondylitis (AS). Limited information exists on how MTX or pred use changes in patients who initiate etanercept in real-world settings.

Objectives: To evaluate whether initiation of etanercept impacts use of co-therapy with MTX or pred in Canadian patients with IMIDs.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted using claims-level data from QuintilesIMS Private Drug Plan database, Ontario Public Drug Plan database, and Quebec Public Drug Plan database. Bio-naïve patients initiating etanercept between 07/2013 and 06/2015, were identified and their claims made for MTX or pred were analyzed. Patients' utilization of MTX or pred was calculated as average weekly dose in mg, and then compared in the 6-months pre versus 12-months post initiation of etanercept using a paired t-test. Differences in the presence of concomitant medications pre and post-etanercept were also examined using a paired t-test.

Results: The study captured 3,745 etanercept patients (61% female, 77% aged between 18 and 65, 84% rheumatic diseases, and 15% PsO) across Canada in the selection period. Of selected patients, 33% used MTX (n=1,244) and 14% (n=523) used pred pre and post initiation of etanercept. In concomitant MTX patients, the average weekly dose dispensed was 25.2mg in the 6 months prior to initiation of etanercept, and 25.0mg in the 12 months following the first claim of etanercept (p=0.7493). In concomitant prednisone patients, the average weekly dose dispensed reduced from 123mg pre-etanercept to 108mg post-etanercept initiation (p=0.2316). 19% of patients stopped MTX (n=287) use post-etanercept initiation, compared to 36% who stopped pred use (n=289).

Conclusions: In this real-world setting, approximately 1/5 of patients stopped or reduced co-therapy of MTX; and 1/3 of patients stopped or reduced co-therapy of pred following initiation of etanercept; however, those patients who remained on co-therapy showed non-significant changes in their average consumption. Further research is needed to understand the impact on overall patient outcomes and safety.

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SAT0166 MARKERS OF RESPONSE TO INFLIXIMAB IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS – THE PLACE OF ANTINUCLEAR ANTIBODY AND NUCLEASE SERUM ACTIVITY

M. Volkava¹, A. Kundzer¹, I. Generalov², D. Petrovich¹. ¹Cardiology and Rheumatology, BelMAPGE, Minsk; ²Clinical Microbiology, VSMU, Vitebsk, Belarus

Background: It is important to study new potential markers of response to treatment in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), because up to 40% patients don't achieve

remission even using biological therapy. DNase activity of the blood serum and antinuclear antibody may be useful in this context. Changes of serum DNase activity in the RA treatment by biological agents previously have been not investigated.

Objectives: The aim of this work is to study the dynamics clinical and laboratory parameters, DNase serum activity and ANA during the RA treatment by infliximab (INF) and assess the prognostic potential of them in prediction of response to INF. **Methods:** 24 RA patients were involved in the study. All patients fulfilled the EULAR/ACR 2010 RA criteria. 22/24 patients received 6 infusions of INF at a dose of 3 mg/kg according to standard protocol: at 0th, 2th, 6th and then every 8 week. 2/24 patient received 4 infusions of INF. All patients received synthetic DMARDs therapy by metotrexate (10–17,5 mg weekly), 18/24 patients received glucocorticoids (methylprednisolone 4–8 mg daily) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Prior to treatment by INF patients did not receive any biological agents. All patients had high disease activity before INF treatment (DAS28<5,1).

ANA determination was performed by indirect immunofluorescence on Hep-2 cells using digital system AKLIDES. ANA was measured in serum samples before 1st INF administration, at 22–30 weeks after the 1st INF administration.

To determine the DNase activity of serum the method of rivanol clot was used. DNase activity was measured in serum samples before 1st INF administration, at 6 weeks after the 1st INF administration, at 30 week of treatment.

Results: At week 30, ACR70 improvement reached 5/22 of the patients, ACR50 - 10/22 of the patients, ACR20 - 4/24 of patients.

At 30 weeks of treatment by INF 2/22 of patients achieved remission (SDAI<3,3), 10/22 - a low disease activity (3,3 <SDAI ≤11).

13/24 patients were ANA-positive before INF treatment, 12/22 - after 24 weeks of treatment.

Levels of serum DNase activity did not differ before and during the INF treatment ($p>0,05$).

For assessment prognostic value of laboratory signs for INF response prediction logistic regression was used. Prognostic model, which included changes in ANA (Δ ANA) and DNase serum activity level (Δ DNase serum activity), anti-CCP- and RF-negativity was better ($p=0,02$) (area under ROC-curve =1,0; 95% CI 0,844–1,00 $p=0,0001$) than the model, which included only anti-CCP- and RF-negativity (area under ROC-curve =0,795; 95% CI 0,597–0,924, $p=0,0141$).

Conclusions: The study confirmed the efficacy of RA treatment by INF for anti-CCP and RF negative patients. DNase serum activity and ANA may be used as additional prognostic biomarker of INF response. For the assessment DNase activity as marker of response to therapy is needed further investigations with more number of patients.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

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SAT0167 CAN INFlixIMAB EFFICACY BE PREDICTED BASED ON BLOOD CONCENTRATION AT THE FOURTH DOSE?

M. Sato¹, M. Takemura², T. Tani¹, T. Ohashi¹. ¹Rheumatology, Ohashi and Tani Orthopedics, Gifu; ²Advanced Diagnostic System Research Laboratory, Fujita Health University Graduate School of Health Sciences, Toyoake, Japan

Background: Biological drugs exhibit excellent efficacy and continuity in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and play an important role in RA treatment. Blood concentration is an important factor in the efficacy of biological drugs, particularly antibody drugs. Infliximab (IFX) is an antibody drug against TNF- α and is reported to require a blood concentration of ≥ 1 μ g/mL to be effective.

Objectives: To investigate whether clinical efficacy can be predicted based on blood concentrations at the fourth dose of IFX in patients with RA.

Methods: This study included 56 patients with RA who were treated with IFX. Patients included 13 men and 43 women aged from 26 to 81 years (mean, 60.3 years). The IFX concentration was measured immediately before administering the fourth IFX dose (8 weeks after administering the third dose). We then investigated the relationship between subsequent IFX efficacy and IFX concentration immediately before the fourth dose of IFX in these patients with RA. Concentrations were measured in stored frozen serum by using the ELISA method.

Results: The IFX concentration immediately before the fourth dose was ≥ 1 μ g/mL in 32 patients (≥ 1 μ g/mL group) and <1 μ g/mL in 24 patients (<1 μ g/mL group). At the fourth dose, IFX was effective in 30 patients (93.8%) in the ≥ 1 μ g/mL group, at a mean concentration of 5.18 μ g/mL, while the mean concentration was 5.69 μ g/mL for the remaining 2 non-responders. IFX was also effective in 21 patients (87.5%) in the <1 μ g/mL group but did not elicit any response in the other 3 patients. At this point, all 5 non-responsive patients were primary non-responders. Of all 51 responders, 58.8% were in the ≥ 1 μ g/mL group and 41.2% were in the <1 μ g/mL group. Based on the data, we observed no relationship between efficacy and IFX concentration. After 1 year of IFX treatment, 36 of the 56 patients were responsive and 20 were non-responsive. In the 2 groups, 26 responsive patients (63.9%) and 9 non-responsive patients (45.0%) had an IFX concentration of ≥ 1 μ g/mL immediately before the fourth dose.

Conclusions: At the fourth dose, many of the patients with an IFX concentration of <1 μ g/mL were also responsive to the treatment, so future efficacy was difficult to predict based on IFX concentration. In other words, during clinical

evaluation, measurement of IFX concentrations is not necessary in responsive patients. However, IFX concentrations should be measured in non-responsive patients or patients with a diminished response. If the concentration is <1 μ g/mL, IFX efficacy should be restored by increasing the dose or shortening the administration interval.

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SAT0168 DISCONTINUATION OF FIRST BIOLOGIC THERAPY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: MAIN CAUSES AND CORRELATION BETWEEN SECONDARY INEFFECTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF IMMUNOGENICITY

P. Bogas¹, C. Plasencia¹, D. Pascual-Salcedo², G. Bonilla¹, E. Moral¹, C. Tornero¹, L. Nuño¹, A. Villalba¹, D. Peiteado¹, A. Martinez², B. Hernandez², A. Balsa¹. ¹Rheumatology; ²Immunology, Hospital Universitario la Paz, Madrid, Spain

Background: Biologic therapy has been a major change in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) prognosis, but around 40% of patients (pts) fail to respond. Part of this treatment failure can be explained by the development of anti-drug antibodies (ADA), but the ADA-associated secondary inefficacies rate is currently unclear.

Objectives: To assess in our RA cohort treated with Adalimumab (Ada), Infliximab (Ifx), etanercept (Etn), certolizumab (Czp), Tocilizumab (Tcz) and Abatacept (Abt) as 1st biologic agent, the frequency of drug suspension as well as the main causes for discontinuation and the secondary inefficacy rate associated with the development of immunogenicity.

Methods: From the RA cohort that initiated their 1st biologic agent at Hospital La Paz between 2005 and 2016, only those who had suspended those drugs were included, and causes for suspension were collected. Clinical activity was measured by DAS28 and Delta-DAS28 at 6 months of treatment to classify discontinuation by primary or secondary inefficacy. Drug levels (DL) and/or ADA were also measured by ELISA at 6 months since initiating the biologic agent in 43 pts and at drug discontinuation in 59 pts. Primary inefficacy was defined as DAS28 >3.2 and delta-DAS28 <1.2 at 6 months with DL present. Secondary inefficacy was defined both as DAS28 >3.2 plus delta-DAS28 <1.2 at 6 months with ADA+ and Delta-DAS28 >1.2 or DAS28 <3.2 at 6 months with subsequent loss of efficacy. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 20.0.

Results: From the 246 pts who started their first biologic therapy, 144 (58%) pts who had definitively discontinued were included. [Ifx (n 35, 24%), Ada (n 40, 28%), Etn (n 30, 21%), Czp (n 23, 16%), Tcz (n 10, 7%) y Abt (n 6, 4%)]. 116 (80.6%) were women. The mean age was 56.3 $\pm$ 14.7 years. The mean time of biologic was 2.23 $\pm$ 1.96 years. From the global cohort, 18 (12.5%) drop out the treatment due to primary inefficacy, 41 (28.5%) to secondary inefficacy, 57 (39.6%) to adverse effects (AE), 11 (7.6%) to remission and 17 (11.8%) to other causes (surgery, pregnancy, etc.). 12.5% pts who discontinued due to AE or other causes had also a primary or secondary inefficacy; by including those pts in these last causes for suspension, a total of 20 pts (14%) failed due to primary inefficacy and 57 pts (39.6%) to secondary inefficacy. The most frequent AEs were: infections (35%), cutaneous AEs (psoriasis, rash, etc. (10.5%), infusion reactions (9%) and neoplasia (9%). Of the 59 pts who had DL/ADA measured at drug discontinuation, 42.4% were ADA+. Within the group that failed due to secondary inefficacy and had DL/ADA determined, 50% were ADA+; nevertheless this rate was smaller in suspensions due to other causes. Likewise, in the ADA+ pts, 73% suspended due to secondary inefficacy.

Demographic Characteristics	
Age (years)	64 $\pm$ 15,4
Sex (Female)	116 (80,6%)
Smokers	25 (17,6%)
BMC	27,79 $\pm$ 8,87
Disease duration	16,7 $\pm$ 8,04
RF +	117 (81,3%)
Anti-CCP +	119 (85,6%)
Duration of treatment (years)	2,23 $\pm$ 1,96
Basal DMARDs	127 (89%)
Basal Methotrexate	82 (57,3%)
Basal Leflunomide	57 (39,6%)
Basal Salazopyrine	13 (9,1%)
Basal CPR	15,14 $\pm$ 19,4
Basal ESR	34,2 $\pm$ 23,4
Basal DAS	5,24 $\pm$ 1,32

Conclusions: In our RA cohort, adverse effects were the main cause for discontinuation, with infections at 1st place. The 2nd cause conditioning interruption was the secondary inefficacy, in which 50% of our pts were ADA+ at drug