The most prevalent polymorphism (84,6% (IC95%: 84,09%-85,11%) and in cases (86,0% (IC95%: 79,43%-92,57%) was **homozygous CC (ITPase-c94a)**; in controls **homozygous GG (GGH-T401C)** (87,5% (IC95%:81,58%-93,42%)

There were no significant differences in the parameters of activity between groups, in both, patients were best basally controlled than at the start of the MTX income and/or bDMARD

Being **homozygous-AA for the DHFR gene** was significantly associated ($p<0.05$) with the appearance of AE (none of the 4 homozygous AA patients for that gene had AE)

In MLR, **homozygous GG** (ref. heterozygous AG) in polymorphism **GGH-T401C**, being **homozygous CC** (ref. heterozygous TC) in polymorphism **ABCC2-C24T** and **PCR (mg/dL) at the start of bDMARD** resulted independent predictive factors of MTX intolerance

Conclusion: Polymorphisms T401C for the GGH gene and C24T for the ABCC2 gene and PCR at the start of the bDMARD resulted independent predictive factors of MTX intolerance

. Polymorphism **homozygous AA for DHFR gene** was related to significant protection against appearance of AE

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AB0339 THE IMPORTANCE OF THERAPEUTIC COMPLIANCE: ADHERENCE TO METHOTREXATE AND ITS ROLE IN IMMUNOGENICITY

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Background: Immunogenicity against adalimumab leads to loss of response and secondary failure to biologic therapy; however, concomitant use of methotrexate (MTX) seems to reduce the development of anti-drug antibodies (ADABs) in a dose-dependent manner. Suboptimal adherence to MTX may favour ADABs appearance.

Objectives: To evaluate the relationship between MTX adherence and ADABs development.

Methods: Observational study among adult patients with chronic inflammatory arthropathy, followed in a tertiary care centre, who were in treatment with MTX and adalimumab. ADABs formation in relation to MTX adherence was assessed.

Results: 33 patients were included, with a MTX adherence overall mean of 82.13 (12.45%-100%, median adherence 92.19%). Only 9.09% (n=3) of the patients developed ADABs, being its MTX adherence mean of 60.95% (46.47%-70%, median adherence 66.39%); ADABs negative group showed an average MTX adherence of 84.23% (12.45%-100%, median adherence 94.29%). A statistically significant result ($p<0.05$) between groups was found.

	n	Adherence mean	
ADABs (+)	3 (9.09%)	60.95%	p<0.05
ADABs (-)	30 (90.91%)	84.23%	
Total	33 (100%)	82.13%	

No statistically significant differences ($p>0.05$) involving MTX adherence and its dose were found.

Conclusion: While the sample is small, this study suggests that ADABs development may be influenced by MTX adherence, thereby promoting adequate MTX adherence should be a priority in the daily practice of every rheumatologist.

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AB0340 EFFECT OF BARICITINIB ON RANKL SERUM CONCENTRATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

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Background: RANKL (receptor activator of nuclear factor κ B ligand) and osteoprotegerin, the main regulators of bone metabolism, are involved in osteoblasts/osteoclasts balance in inflammatory disease, such as Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors (baricitinib and tofacitinib) can reduce the progression of structural damage in patients with moderate to severe RA. Previous studies suggest a link between JAK inhibition, production of RANKL and osteoclastogenesis^{1,2}.

Objectives: to investigate the effect of baricitinib on RANKL serum concentration in unselected RA patients.

Methods: Patients affected by RA according to 2010 ACR criteria, starting treatment with baricitinib as clinically indicated, were consecutively enrolled. Demographic, clinical and laboratory data were collected at baseline (T0) and after three months of therapy (T3). RANKL serum concentration was analyzed by ELISA at the same timepoints. All patients underwent ultrasound (US) examination at T0 and T3. According with OMERACT definitions, the presence of synovial effusion, hypertrophy and power Doppler were assessed and scored on a semi-quantitative scale (0=absent, 1=mild, 2=moderate, 3=severe), obtaining a total US score (0-198), representing the joint inflammatory status (15); erosions were registered. Data were expressed as median (interquartile range); Mann-Whitney and Spearman tests were performed for comparisons and p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: We prospectively followed up 33 RA patients starting treatment with baricitinib [M/F 8/25; age 58(9) years; disease duration 165(150) months; 22/33 (67%) ACPA-anti-citrullinated protein antibody positive; 24/33 patients (73%) RF-rheumatoid factor positive]. After three months of therapy we observed a significant reduction of DAS28_{CRP}, CDAI and SDAI compared to baseline ($p<0.0001$). The US inflammatory score showed a significant improvement at T3 ($p<0.0001$). The serum concentration of RANKL showed a significant decrease after three months of therapy from 44 (25.9) to 27.5 (35.3) pg/ml, $p=0.0256$ (Figure 1). While in 67% of patients RANKL decreased after treatment, in 33% of patients no decrease or an increase of RANKL was detected. Those patients showing an increase of RANKL had similar DAS28_{CRP}, CDAI, SDAI, but had significantly less swollen joints, compared to those in which RANKL decreased ($p=0.0364$). At baseline, the concentration of RANKL significantly correlated with the swollen joint count ($p=0.0117$) and ESR ($p=0.0482$), but not with DAS28_{CRP}, CDAI, SDAI nor with the US inflammatory score. Nevertheless, the reduction of RANKL was not significantly associated with the achievement of low disease/remission after three months of treatment, with ACPA/RF positivity or the presence of erosions detected by US.

Conclusion: This is the first study demonstrating that baricitinib reduces *in vivo* the serum levels of RANKL, regardless the correlation with disease activity indices. The discrepancy between the levels of RANKL and the clinical response is in line with previous data in the literature, demonstrating that, under treatment with anti-TNF and anti-IL1, the decrease of RANKL did not