METHODOTREXATE AND RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

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Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is a key anchor drug for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) management. Its use has been associated with hypersensitivity pneumonitis and diffuse lung disease. Whether MTX exposure increases the risk of interstitial lung disease (ILD) in patients with RA is disputed.

Objectives: We aimed to evaluate the association of antecedent MTX use with development of RA-ILD.

Methods: Through a case-control study design with derivation and international validation samples, we examined the association of MTX exposure with ILD in 402 patients with RA-ILD and 741 patients with RA without ILD. Estimates were pooled over the different samples using meta-analysis techniques.

Results: Analysis of the derivation sample revealed an inverse relationship between MTX exposure and ILD in patients with RA is disputed.

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