Emmanouil Rampakakis: None declared, Angela Cesta: None declared, John Sampalis: None declared, Claire Bombardier Grant/research support from: Dr Bombardier reports sources of funding for Ontario Best Practice Research Initiative Research grants from Abbvie, Janssen, Amgen, Medac, Meck, Pfizer, and Novartis outside of the submitted work. Consulting Agreements: Abbvie, Covance, Janssen, Meck, Pfizer, Sanofi and Novartis outside of the submitted work. Advisory Board Membership: Hospira, Sandzo, Meck, Pfizer and Novartis outside of the submitted work.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2020-eular.1751

SAT0050 PREDICTION OF RESPONSE TO CERTOLIZUMAB PEGOL TREATMENT BY FUNCTIONAL MRI OF THE BRAIN: AN INTERNATIONAL, MULTI-CENTER, RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL (PRECEPRA)

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Background: Personalization of RA treatment is not optimal due to lack of predictors. We previously demonstrated in RA patients that central nervous system (CNS) pain response to tender joint compression, measured by using functional MRI (fMRI) of the brain rapidly wanes after 24 hours of anti-TNF administration and that a higher pre-treatment BOLD signal volume seems to predict clinical response to treatment with certolizumab-pegol (CZP)1,2. We therefore hypothesized that the CNS pain response upon compression of a painful joint could predict subsequent anti-TNF treatment response.

Objectives: To compare disease activity after 12-weeks of CZP treatment to that of placebo in DMARD-refractory RA patients based on pre-treatment baseline CNS pain response measured using BOLD fMRI.

Methods: Adult RA patients fulfilling the 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria with a DAS28>3.2 under stable DMARD treatment for at least 3 months were eligible. Patients underwent fMRI scanning of the brain at screening for stratification by using functional MRI (fMRI) of the brain. Whole brain BOLD-signal-voxel count of 700 units classifying between low and high, and were randomized to CZP or placebo (P). The primary outcome was low disease activity (LDA, DAS28≤3.2) after 12 weeks of treatment.

Results: 156 RA patients, inadequate responders to csDMARD, signed the informed consent. 139 patients (46/47, 44/49 and 42/43) (99 females, 71%) with moderate-high disease activity (mean (SD) DAS-28: 4.83 (1.03)) could be included respectively and completed the 12-week study treatment. Geometric mean (SD) of naive volunteers was 559 (10), 81 (12) and 2498 (3) in the 3 arms respectively. The mean DAS28 (SD) scores after 12 weeks of study treatment were Placebo: 4.89 (1.29), CZP-L: 3.42 (1.06) and CZP-H: 3.06 (1.04). LDA was achieved in 12/47 patients (25.5 %) in placebo, 22/49 (44.9%) in the CZP-L, and 25/43, (58.1%) in the CZP-H arm. The linear effect term for the ordinal study variable supported a linear trend of increasing CZP treatment effect with LDA.

Conclusion: A higher pre-treatment brain activity in response to pain measured with fMRI predicts the chance of achieving low disease activity with CZP treatment.

References:

SAT0051 REMISSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS: A CLUSTER ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY AND CHARACTERIZE SUBPOPULATIONS OF PATIENTS

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Background: Disease Activity Score (DAS) is a continuous measure of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) activity, used in clinical practice for monitoring disease progression and for documenting treatment response. According to EULAR, the clinical desired target is to achieve a remission state (or failing that, low disease activity). However, the population of RA patients in this state could be heterogeneous.

Acknowledgments : The study was supported by an unrestricted grant from UCB Pharma SPRL, Brussels, Belgium

Disclosure of Interests: Jürgen Reich Consultant of: BMS, Celgene, Novartis, Roche, Chugui, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Celgene, MSD, Novartis, Roche, Chugui, Pfizer, Lilly, Korya Tascliar: None declared, Hannah Schenker: None declared, Marina Sergeeva: None declared, Mageshwar Selvakumar: None declared, Laura Konerth: None declared, Jutta Prade: None declared, Sandra Strobel: None declared, Melanie Hagen: None declared, Verena Schönau: None declared, Larissa Valor: None declared, Axel Hueber Grant/research support from: Novartis, Lilly, Pfizer, EIT Health, EU-IMI, DFG, Universität Erlangen (EFI), Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Celgene, Gilead, GSK, Lilly, Novartis, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Lilly, Novartis, David Simon Grant/research support from: Else Kröner-Memorial Scholarship, Novartis, Consultant of: Novartis, Lilly, Arnd Kleyer Consultant of: Lilly, Gilead, Novartis, Abbvie, Speakers bureau: Novartis, Lilly, Frank Behrens Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Chugui, Janssen, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Chugui, UCB, BMS, Celgene, MSD, Novartis, Biostest, Janssen, Genzyme, Lilly; Boehringer; Sanofi, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Chugui, UCB, BMS, MSD, Celgene, Novartis, Biostest, Janssen, Genzyme, Lilly; Boehringer; Sanofi, José Antonio P. da Silva Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, Consultant of: Pfizer, AbbVie, Roche, Lilly, Novartis, Christoph Baerwald Consultant of: CGB received speaker or consulting fees from AbbVie, Paid instructor for: CGB received speaker or consulting fees from AbbVie, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Lilly, Novartis, Roche and UCB

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2020-eular.4286

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