Appendix E


1. Definition of progression
We used one non-progressive category (N) and three progressive categories related to pain (P), structure (S), and combined pain and structure (P+S). The progression was analysed between baseline and 2-year follow-up.

Structural progression was measured using radiographic readings of minimum joint space width (JSW) across the entire joint, performed with KIDA [1]. A patient was assigned to the S category if the minimum JSW decreased by at least 0.6mm.

Pain was measured using the pain subscale from the WOMAC questionnaire [2]. A patient was assigned to the P category if:
- the pain increased by at least minimal clinically important difference (10 WOMAC points on a 0–100 scale), and was substantial at the follow-up visit (at least 40 WOMAC points),
- the pain increased rapidly by at least 20 WOMAC points, and was at least 35 WOMAC points at follow-up),
- substantial pain (at least 40 WOMAC points) was sustained both at baseline and follow-up.

A patient was assigned to the P+S category if criteria for both P and S were satisfied, and to the remaining N category if neither of them was satisfied.

For 76 patients, the progression could not be assessed because of the missing follow-up data (due to withdrawal from the study or issues with X-ray image acquisition/quality).


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