

Steroid use according to oral or parenteral.

There were no differences between the groups at baseline in use of oral or parenteral steroid (Table 1). Oral steroids used by 7.2% of participants at baseline were tapered and discontinued where possible. Although use of oral steroids during the study was discouraged, they were used by 11.5% of participants with no difference between the groups in the proportion of participants who received them; 7.5% control, 14% fish oil, $p=0.29$ (Fisher's Exact Test). Also there was no difference between groups in the median cumulative dose of prednisolone among prednisolone takers over 1 year; 1249 mg (IQR 655-1806) control, 277 mg (IQR 109-1007) fish oil, $p=0.10$ (Mann-Whitney U test). In the fish oil group, two participants commenced high dose prednisolone for interstitial lung disease (at 3 and 6 months), two commenced low dose prednisolone for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Others had sporadic use for short-term relief of RA symptoms.

Intermittent parenteral steroids were allowed when indicated. There was no difference between groups in the proportion of participants who received them: 55% control, 52% fish oil ($p=0.86$, Fisher Exact Test). The median number of injection days for those who had injections was 2 (IQR 1-3) for both control and fish oil groups. There was no difference between groups in the median dose per injection day (mg prednisolone equivalents); 100 (IQR 50-150) control, 100 (IQR 50-150) fish oil, $p=0.18$ (Mann-Whitney U test).