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IN BRIEF

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Natural killer cell receptor expression in RA

A study has shown that natural killer cell receptors CD94 and NKG2A are expressed at higher levels in patients in remission from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) following TNF blockade than in those with active RA. Low levels of these receptors were associated with disease flare following therapy withdrawal. This differential expression could provide predictive markers for flare and might allow for cost-reducing therapy holidays in patients in remission without risking disease flare.

Original article Walsh, C. E. *et al.* Differential expression of NK receptors CD94 and NKG2A by T cells in rheumatoid arthritis patients in remission compared to active disease. *PLoS ONE* 6, e27182 (2011)

SPONDYLOARTHROPATHIES

2-year results from the ankylosing spondylitis GO-RAISE study

In the GO-RAISE study, which assessed the long-term effects of monthly subcutaneous golimumab (50 mg or 100 mg) versus placebo in patients with ankylosing spondylitis, the good clinical responses reported after 24 and 52 weeks were sustained at 104 weeks. Over 50% of patients in the treatment groups met the Assessment in SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) criteria for 40% improvement from baseline and over 30% achieved partial remission. The safety profile was maintained from 24 weeks and is comparable to those other TNF inhibitors.

Original article Braun, J. *et al.* Golimumab administered subcutaneously every 4 weeks in ankylosing spondylitis: 104-week results of the GO RAISE study. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* doi:10.1136/ard.2011.154799

VASCULITIS SYNDROMES

Achieving remission from systemic rheumatoid vasculitis

The efficacy and safety of daily rituximab in patients with systemic rheumatoid vasculitis has been examined based on data from 17 patients enrolled on the French Autoimmunity and Rituximab registry. After 6 months of treatment, 12 patients achieved complete remission of their vasculitis. However, maintenance therapy with rituximab might be necessary to prevent relapse: in 2 out of 3 patients who relapsed when rituximab was discontinued (from a total of 9 relapses), remission was re-established when the drug was reintroduced.

Original article Puéchal, X. *et al.* Rituximab therapy for systemic vasculitis associated with rheumatoid arthritis. Results from the autoimmunity and rituximab registry. *Arthritis Care Res.* doi:10.1002/acr.20689

CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

Cancer risks for patients with Sjögren's syndrome

Overall, patients with primary Sjögren's syndrome (pSS) in a Taiwanese nationwide cohort ($n = 7,852$) are at no greater risk of developing cancer than the general population. However, for the 25–44-year age group the incidence of cancer was increased, with a standardized incidence ratio of 2.19 (95% CI 1.43–3.21) compared to 1.04 (95% CI 0.91–1.18) for patients with pSS over all age groups.

Original article Weng, M.-Y. *et al.* Incidence of cancer in a nationwide population cohort of 7,852 patients with primary Sjögren's syndrome in Taiwan. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2011-200402