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IN BRIEF

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

GO-MONOtherapy with golimumab for RA

Golimumab monotherapy (50 mg or 100 mg every 4 weeks) effectively reduces the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in patients with active disease despite DMARD therapy, according to results from a phase II/III trial in 316 Japanese patients. At week 14, the proportion of patients achieving ≥20% improvement in the American College of Rheumatology criteria were markedly greater in the golimumab groups (50 mg, 50.5%; 100 mg, 58.8% than the placebo group (19.0%).

Original article Takeuchi, T. *et al.* Golimumab monotherapy in Japanese patients with active rheumatoid arthritis despite prior treatment with disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: results of the phase 2/3, multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, GO-MONO study through 24 weeks. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2012-201796

THERAPY

NSAID use early in pregnancy does not increase risk of congenital malformations

Of 110,783 pregnancies during 1998–2009 in southern Israel, 5,267 mothers were exposed to NSAIDs (nonselective cyclooxygenase [COX] and selective COX2 inhibitors) during their first trimester. Intrauterine exposure to NSAIDs did not increase the risk of major congenital malformations in general; however, exposure to selective COX2 inhibitors was associated with an increased risk of musculoskeletal malformations (adjusted OR 3.39; 95% CI 1.37–8.34).

Original article Daniel, S. *et al.* Major malformations following exposure to nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs during the first trimester of pregnancy. *J. Rheumatol.* doi:10.3899/jrheum.120453

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Safety profile of tocilizumab confirmed

24-week data from a phase IIIb US study have confirmed the safety and tolerability of tocilizumab (either 8 mg/kg alone or 4 mg/kg or 8 mg/kg in combination with nonbiologic DMARDs) for patients with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis. The adverse event profile of tocilizumab in the 866 patients analysed was similar to previous results, with the most common serious complication being infection.

Original article Weinblatt, M. E. *et al.* Tocilizumab as monotherapy or in combination with nonbiologic DMARDs: a 24-week results of an open-label, clinical practice study (ACT-STAR). *Arthritis Care Res.* doi:10.1002/acr.21847

OSTEOARTHRITIS

No association between mtDNA variants and osteoarthritis

Components that underlie the heritability of osteoarthritis (OA) are yet to be defined. Contrary to previous results, an analysis of two large genome-wide association study cohorts across a total of 7,393 patients with OA and 5,122 controls has found no association between OA and 48 maternally inherited mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) variants; accordingly, OA phenotypic subgroups were not associated with mtDNA haplogroups.

Original article Hudson, G. *et al.* No evidence of an association between mitochondrial DNA variants and osteoarthritis in 7393 cases and 5122 controls. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2012-201932