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IN BRIEF

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

OPERA regimen gives excellent RA control (NCT00660647)

Among 180 DMARD-naïve patients with early RA, an aggressive treat-to-target strategy based on methotrexate and intra-articular triamcinolone resulted in similar treatment profiles and clinical responses at 2 years, regardless of whether patients also received adalimumab or placebo during the first year. Adalimumab was (re)initiated if active disease recurred. Worsening of erosion scores was slightly reduced in the adalimumab-withdrawal group.

Original article Hørslev-Petersen, K. *et al.* Clinical and radiographic outcome of a treat-to-target strategy using methotrexate and intra-articular glucocorticoids with or without adalimumab induction: a 2-year investigator-initiated, double-blinded, randomised, controlled trial (OPERA). *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-208166

GENETICS

New GWAS data link aberrant immunoregulation to SLE

The largest GWAS (genome-wide association study) of SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus) to date has mapped 43 identified loci, including 10 new variants (mostly in enzyme genes). Of note, 16 of the SLE-linked genes encode transcription factors—more than would be expected by chance. The researchers genotyped 7,219 patients and 15,991 healthy controls of European ancestry for this new GWAS and supporting studies.

Original article Bentham, J. *et al.* Genetic association analyses implicate aberrant regulation of innate and adaptive immunity genes in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus. *Nat. Genet.* doi:10.1038/ng.3434

OSTEOARTHRITIS

RCT supports TKR in eligible patients with osteoarthritis

The first randomized trial of total knee replacement (TKR) enrolled 100 patients with osteoarthritis who were considered eligible for this procedure. TKR followed by 12 weeks of nonsurgical treatment was more effective than nonsurgical treatment alone (exercise, education, dietary advice, use of insoles, and pain medication) in reducing pain and improving function and quality of life after 12 months. However, both groups experienced clinically relevant improvements, and more serious adverse events occurred in the TKR group.

Original article Skou, S. T. *et al.* A randomized, controlled trial of total knee replacement. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **373**, 1597–1606 (2015)

SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Suboptimal monitoring of comorbidities in spondyloarthritis

Among 3,984 patients with spondyloarthritis from 22 countries worldwide, the most frequent comorbidities were osteoporosis (13%) and gastroduodenal ulcer (11%). The most frequent risk factors for comorbidities were hypertension (34%), smoking (29%) and hypercholesterolaemia (27%). <50% of patients were screened according to current recommendations, and comorbidity screening rates showed substantial intercountry variability. Systematic screening of study participants revealed previously undetected risk factors (such as elevated blood pressure in patients without known hypertension, present in 14% of participants).

Original article Moltó, A. *et al.* Prevalence of comorbidities and evaluation of their screening in spondyloarthritis: results of the international cross-sectional ASAS-COMOSPA study. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-208174