

IN BRIEF

VASCULITIS SYNDROMES**Efficacy of tocilizumab for GCA in RCT**

Tocilizumab plus glucocorticoids had greater efficacy than glucocorticoids alone in the induction and maintenance of remission in patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) in a single-centre phase 2 randomized controlled trial. Patients with new-onset ($n = 23$) or relapsing ($n = 7$) GCA were randomly allocated (2:1) to receive tocilizumab or placebo; both groups also received tapered oral prednisolone (starting daily dose 1 mg/kg). At 12 weeks, 17 of 20 (85%) patients in the tocilizumab group achieved complete remission, compared with four of 10 (40%) in the placebo group (risk difference 45%, 95% CI 11–79; $P = 0.0301$).

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Villiger, P. M. et al. Tocilizumab for induction and maintenance of remission in giant cell arteritis: a phase 2, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet* [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)00560-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)00560-2) (2016)

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**Antidrug antibodies crossreact with biosimilars**

A study using bridging ELISA assays shows that antibodies to infliximab have identical reactivity towards the biosimilar CT-P13, suggesting that patients with anti-infliximab antibodies should not be switched to the biosimilar. 126 of 250 (50.4%) patients with rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthritis treated with infliximab tested positive when Remicade® (Janssen) was used to detect anti-drug antibodies. All 126 of these patients also tested positive with assays using either Remsima® (Orion Pharma) or Inflectra® (Hospira). Positive and negative percentage agreements were 100% in all comparisons.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Ruiz-Argüello, M. B. et al. Antibodies to infliximab in Remicade-treated rheumatic patients show identical reactivity towards biosimilars. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-208684> (2016)

CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES**Steroidal nano-drug suppresses murine lupus**

The efficacy of treatment with a liposome-based steroid (methylprednisolone hemisuccinate (MPS)) nano-drug was superior to similar doses of free MPS in a mouse model of lupus. The steroid nano-drug, which was administered weekly, suppressed anti-double-stranded DNA antibody levels, renal damage and proliferation of lymphoid tissue, and prolonged the survival of the MRL-lpr/lpr mice, to a greater extent than treatment with daily injections of free MPS.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Moallem, E. et al. A liposomal steroid nano-drug for treating systemic lupus erythematosus. *Lupus* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0961203316636468> (2016)

OSTEOARTHRITIS**Vitamin D not effective for knee OA**

In patients with knee osteoarthritis and low vitamin D levels, monthly treatment with oral vitamin D₃ (50,000 IU; $n = 209$) or placebo ($n = 204$) for 2 years did not lead to significant between-group differences in MRI-measured cartilage volume loss or knee pain score. The results do not support the use of vitamin D₃ supplementation to prevent pain or cartilage loss in knee OA.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Jin, X. et al. Effect of vitamin D supplementation on tibial cartilage volume and knee pain among patients with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA* **315**, 1005–1013 (2016)