

## IN BRIEF

## THERAPY

**Biologics and risk of second malignant neoplasm**

In an analysis of DANBIO registry data, use of biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs) was not associated with an increased risk of a second malignant neoplasm among patients with rheumatoid arthritis and a history of a primary cancer diagnosis, compared with those not treated with bDMARDs (HR 1.11, 95% CI 0.74–1.67). The result was similar whether bDMARDs were used before or after the first cancer, or both, and was independent of the type of bDMARD used. No clear conclusion could be drawn regarding the influence of bDMARD treatment on mortality in patients with a history of cancer.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Dreyer, L. *et al.* Risk of second malignant neoplasm and mortality in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with biological DMARDs: a Danish population-based cohort study. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/annrheumdis-2017-212086> (2017)

## OSTEOARTHRITIS

**Arthroscopy does not delay TKA for knee OA**

Compared with conservative treatment, arthroscopy did not decrease or delay total knee arthroplasty (TKA) in a 5-year retrospective study of 382 patients with osteoarthritis (OA). Of the 214 patients treated with arthroscopy, 32 (15%) eventually underwent TKA, compared with 30 of the 168 patients (17.9%) treated conservatively ( $P=0.20$ ). WOMAC scores were lower in the arthroscopy group than in the conservative group at 1 year and 2 years, indicating that arthroscopy provided greater relief of knee OA symptoms at these time points.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Su, X. *et al.* Comparison of arthroscopic and conservative treatments for knee osteoarthritis: a 5-year retrospective comparative study. *Arthroscopy* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.arthro.2017.09.023> (2017)

## RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Higher disease risk in children of women with RA**

A nationwide cohort study based on the Danish health registries shows that children born to mothers with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are more susceptible to developing RA and other chronic diseases compared with children born to women without RA. Children exposed to RA *in utero* were nearly three times more likely to develop RA (HR 2.89, 95% CI 2.06–4.05). The study additionally found that these children were also at an increased risk of developing thyroid diseases (HR 2.19, 95% CI 1.14–4.21) and epilepsy (HR 1.61, 95% CI 1.16–2.25).

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Jølvig, L. R. *et al.* Children born by women with rheumatoid arthritis have increased susceptibility for selected chronic diseases – a nationwide cohort study. *Arthritis Care Res.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/acr.23461> (2017)

## SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

**Rituximab improves SLE disease activity**

British Isles Lupus Assessment Group Biologics Register (BILAG-BR) data show that treatment with rituximab is associated with an improvement in disease activity in patients with refractory systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Among 270 patients commencing biologic therapy for refractory SLE between September 2010 and September 2015, 261 received rituximab. Response was achieved in 49% of the patients, and glucocorticoid use was also reduced at 6 months ( $P<0.001$ ). Serious infections were more frequent in the first 3 months after rituximab therapy, and occurred in 26 (10%) of the patients,

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** McCarthy, E. M. *et al.* Short-term efficacy and safety of rituximab therapy in refractory systemic lupus erythematosus: results from the British Isles Lupus Assessment Group Biologics Register. *Rheumatology* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/rheumatology/kex395> (2017)