



# **RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: BIOLOGICAL DRUGS PHARMACOUTILISATION ANALISYS IN AN ITALIAN DISTRICT**

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Abstract number: 11SG-014

ATC code: L04 - Immunosuppressive agents

## **BACKGROUND :**

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic systemic inflammatory disease. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the rheumatoid arthritis prevalence in the world is between 0,3% and 1% and in Italy is equivalent to 0,33/100, that is about 200.000 patients.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

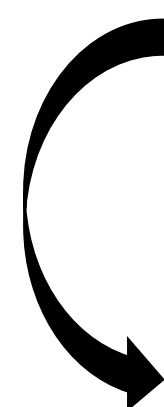
Comparing prescriptions between an Italian district, including 600.000 citizens, and regional and national prescriptions, in order to make a pharmacoutilisation analysis.

## **METHODS :**

Immunosuppressive drugs have been analysed, employed in rheumatoid arthritis therapy, according to the defined daily dose (DDD), divided in the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification, concerning the two-year period 2016/2017. Prescriptions about an Italian district, the region of belonging and the whole nation have been compared.

## **RESULTS :**

In an Italian north district, DDDs about immunosuppressive prescriptions for rheumatoid arthritis have been increased by 14,6% in 2017 compared to the previous year, however they are being on regional and national average. DDDs that have increased more are about secukinumab (+1135,3%) and, in less quantity, tocilizumab (+59,6%). In 2017, every molecule considered DDDs are increased except etanercept and infliximab in the region, and mycophenolate in general in the nation, compared to 2016. Immunosuppressive drugs belonging to ATC L04 is 2,2% of the whole DDD. In 2017, DDDs are increased in this district (+14,6%) and also in region and national territory.



## **CONCLUSIONS :**

From this analysis, it can be said that in 2017 there has been a DDD increase of molecule belonging to ATC L04 prescribed for rheumatoid arthritis. The pharmaceutical market is booming thanks to frequent introduction of new molecules and to updating of new therapeutic indications. It's necessary a continuous training of prescriptors and pharmacists to ensure prescriptive appropriateness in order of a suitable and effective therapy to patient and economic sustainability.