

# EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF SWITCHING FROM INTRAVENOUS TO SUBCUTANEOUS TOCILIZUMAB

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## BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a strategies implemented to minimize patient visits to health centres was switching the administration of **tocilizumab** (TCZ) from intravenous (IV) to subcutaneous (SC).

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of switching from IV to SC TCZ.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Retrospective observational study conducted in a tertiary hospital including patients receiving active treatment of IV TCZ during March-April 2020 .  
The follow-up period was one year.

Data was collected on the following variables:

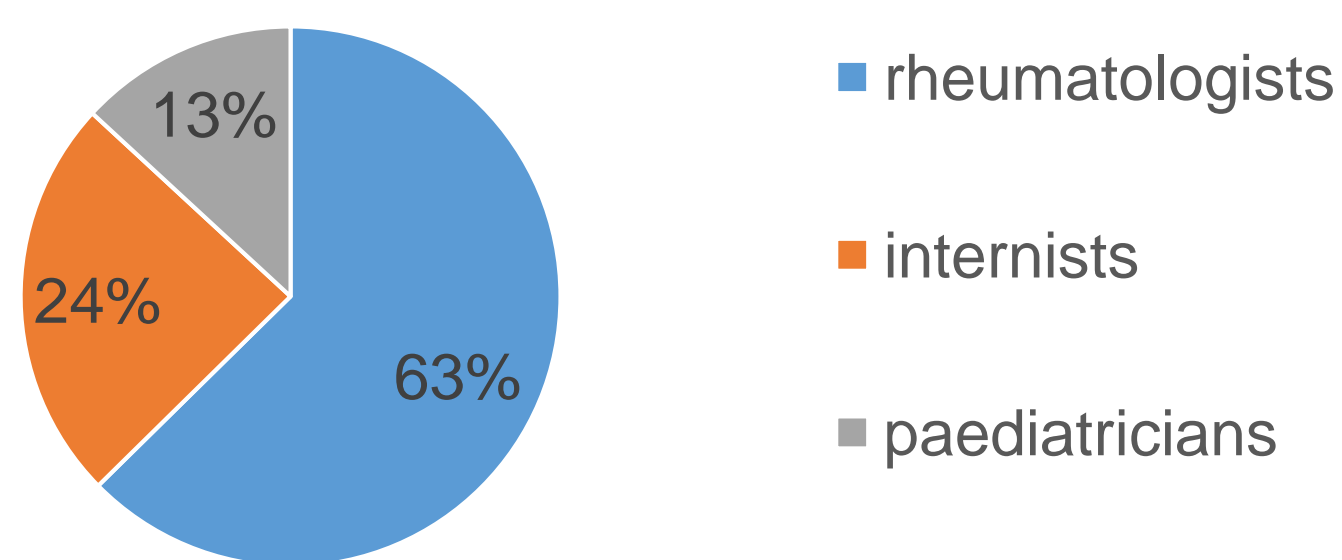
- Age
- Sex
- Pathology
- Switching to SC TCZ
- Switching back to IV administration
- Physician assessment or patient self-assessment

## RESULTS

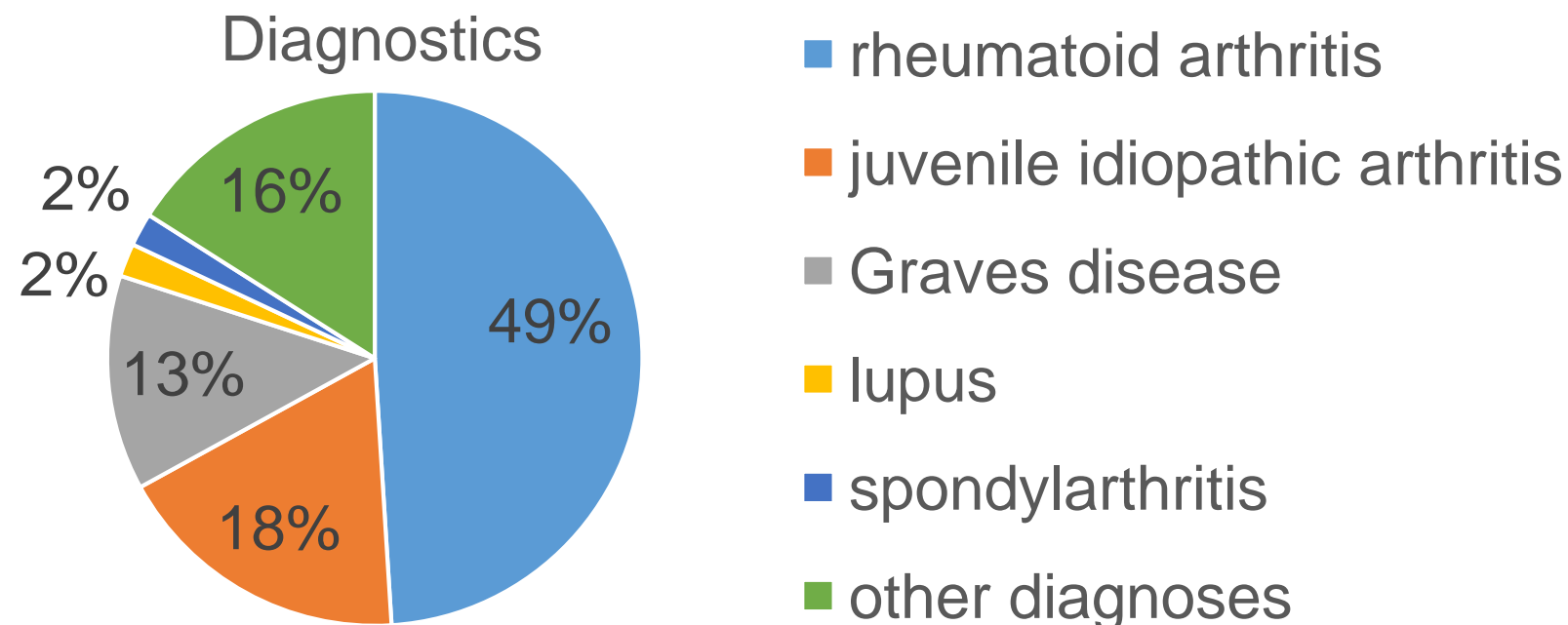
45 patients were included

Median age of 54 years  
Women represented 85%

Prescribing physicianstas



Diagnostics



71%

32 patients  
switched to  
TCZ SC

- 86% of rheumatology
- 83% of paediatrics
- 27% of internal medicine

34,4%

11 patients  
switched again  
to TCZ IV

- 7 cases reported aggravations after switching
- 4 cases for undetermined reasons

4 patients  
reported  
improvement

## CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

One fifth of the patients reported loss of effectiveness when changing from IV to SC form, and one third switched back to IV administration. Regarding safety, the toxicity profile of both forms was similar to other studies.