

REASON FOR DISCONTINUATION OF BIOLOGICAL DRUG TREATMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

C. Pastor Mondéjar¹, C. Iniesta Navalón¹, I. Salar Valverde¹, A.M. Martínez Soto¹, P. Ortiz Fernández¹, M. Gil Candel¹, M. García Coronel¹, A. Quesada Asencio, M. Onteniente Candela¹, M.d.C. Caballero Requejo¹, E. Urbieto Sanz¹.
¹Reina Sofía General University Hospital, Hospital Pharmacy, Murcia, Spain

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic, autoimmune and unknown etiology illness, characterized by a chronic inflammation of sinovial articulations. Biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) are used to slow down the disease progression.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

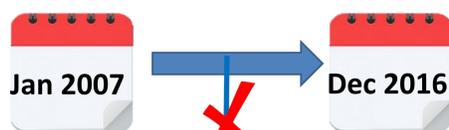
Analyze the reasons for treatment discontinuation with biological drugs in patients diagnosed of rheumatoid arthritis in our hospital.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A retrospective study was performed, in which all patients diagnosed of rheumatoid arthritis treated with biological drugs at some point (between 2007-2016) were included. Data of biological drug's dispensations, causes of treatment discontinuation, sex and age of patients were collected. We use Excel[®] to analyses the data.



Data collected:
 - bDMARDs' dispensations
 - Causes for treatment discontinuation
 - Sex
 - Age



Treatment's discontinuation

RESULTS

A total of 136 patients diagnosed of rheumatoid arthritis treated with biological drug were included with a total of 251 treatments. Patients received a media of 1,8 biological drugs.



103 of them discontinued at some point their treatment with the prescribed biological drug, corresponding to a total of 196 treatments of 251 (78,1%), continuing 33 patients with the same drug since the treatment beginning.

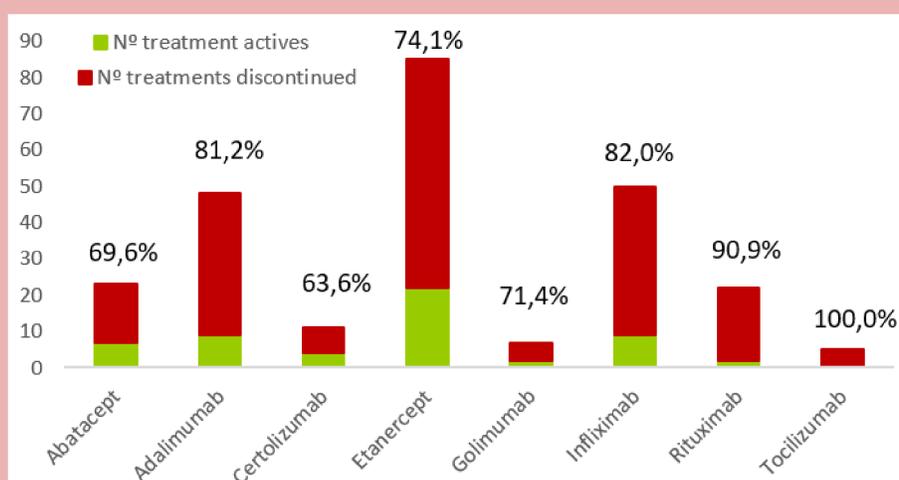


Figure 1. Percentage of treatment's discontinuations of each biological drug regarding the total.

The main cause for treatment discontinuation were the adverse events (29,6%), followed by secondary failure (24,5%) and primary failure (18,4%). Other reasons were patient's reasons (3,6%), patient's illness (3,6%), remission (3,1%) and immunogenicity (1,5%). 14,8% of them were unknown. Allergic reaction or skin reaction were the most common causes among the adverse events.

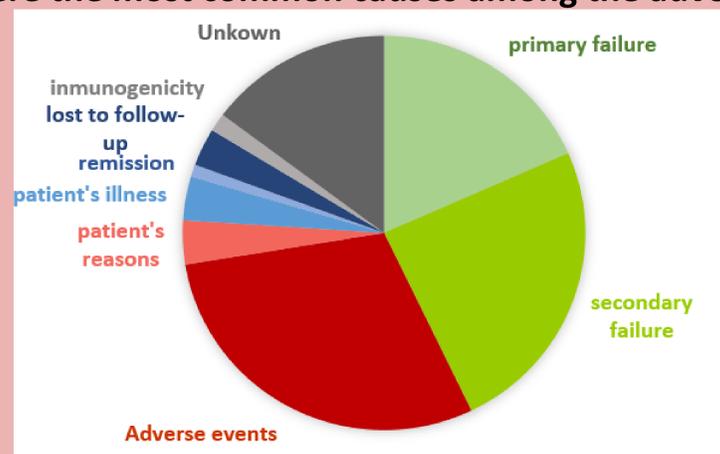


Figure 2. Reasons of treatment's discontinuation in RA patients.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

Certolizumab was the biological drug with the lowest discontinuation percentage, followed by abatacept, golimumab and etanercept. Among the different reasons of treatment discontinuation with biological drugs, adverse effects were the main cause (29,8%), with about 50% related to allergic or skin reaction.

References and/or Acknowledgements

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