BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES
The aim of our study was to explore the potential role of KCNMB1 genetic polymorphisms as a predictor of tocilizumab efficacy in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
The KCNMB1 (A>G) (rs703505) genetic variant was genotyped using predesigned TaqMan® genotyping assays technology and analyzed on a ViiA7® Real-time PCR system. Clinical response was evaluated at 24 weeks with the use of the 28-joint disease activity score criteria (DAS28). Clinical response was evaluated at 14 weeks with the use of the 28-joint disease activity score criteria (DAS28) and good response and remission were classified according to EULAR criteria. EULAR good response was defined as a change of DAS28>1.2 and DAS28 ≤3.2. EULAR remission was defined as achieving DAS28 at 14 weeks ≤2.6. The statistical analysis was performed using SPSS v.20.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>n (%) or mean (±sd)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>110 (79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>53.25 (±12.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS (Baseline)</td>
<td>5.71 (±1.13)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KCNMB1-GG</th>
<th>Non KCNMB1-GG</th>
<th>O.R (95% C.I.)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EULAR good response</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>0.37 (0.14-0.93)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON EULAR good response</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EULAR Remission</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>0.29 (0.09-0.87)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON EULAR Remission</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>62</td>
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</table>

CONCLUSION
Our results confirm that KCNMB1 (A>G) rs703505 polymorphisms could be useful as a genetic marker of tocilizumab efficacy in RA patients. More studies are necessary to confirm these results.