TOCILIZUMAB USE IN DAILY PRACTICE FOR PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: PATIENT PROFILE USING THE PROVINCIAL ELECTRONIC DATABASE AND REGISTRY RHUMADATA®

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INTRODUCTION

In Canada, Tocilizumab (TCZ) was approved for intravenous use in early April 2010. It was the ninth biologic agent accepted for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and was quickly adopted by Canadian rheumatologists.

OBJECTIVE

We report here the profile of patients having started this therapy at the *Institut de Rhumatologie de Montréal* and the *Centre de Rhumatologie et Ostéoporose de Québec* that were included in the RHUMADATA® prospective database.

METHODS

All patients starting therapy with TCZ between April 2010 and April 2014 were included in the present analysis. Demographics and co-therapy are described. Patients were divided into 2 groups, those continuing the treatment and those the having stopped.

RESULTS

	Current TCZ use		All
Mean (standard deviation)*	**No**	**Yes**	
N	51	82	133
Age (years)	59.4 (14.1)	58.4 (12.2)	58.8 (12.9)
Women, n(%)	41(80.4%)	71(86.6%)	112(84.2%)
Disease duration (years)	15.9 (11.4)	14.9 (9.7)	15.3 (10.4)
Number of prior DMARDs	1.8 (1.5)	1.5 (1.4)	1.6 (1.4)
Number of prior biologic agents	2.5 (2.0)	1.4 (1.3)	1.8 (1.7)
Biologic-naïve, n(%)	9(17.6%)	24(29.3%)	33(24.8%)
Number of concomitant DMARDs, n(%)			
0	12(23.5%)	14(17.1%)	26(19.6%)
1	26(51.0%)	41(50.0%)	67(50.4%)
2	12(23.5%)	25(30.5%)	37(27.8%)
3	1(2.0%)	2(2.4%)	3(2.3%)
TCZ-duration of treatment (years)	1.0 (0.8)	3.3 (2.6)	2.4 (2.4)

*Data are expressed as mean (standard deviation), except where otherwise specified.

A total of 133 patients received TCZ and 51 (38%) stopped using it:

- for side effects (n = 20, 39%),
- suboptimal response (n = 8, 16%),
- unknown, or other reasons (n = 23, 45%).

The principal differences between the 2 groups were:

- the percentage of biologic-naïve patients (18 vs 29%),
- the number of prior biological agents (2.5 vs. 1.4) and,
- use as monotherapy (23.5% vs. 17.1%)

CONCLUSION

The pattern of use of TCZ in this Quebec database resembles the use reported in a pan-Canadian observational study where close to 25 % of patients initiated TCZ as monotherapy and in quarter of the patients TCZ was the first biologic agent. After over 2 years it's retention rate was 62%. Patients who stopped TCZ had generally more prior therapeutic failures to biological agents and were more often in monotherapy.

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