



A R A D
Australian Rheumatology Association Database

6 monthly report (May 2009) – Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD).

A study of the long-term effects of arthritis and its treatments in Australia

This report provides a summary of the data collected from participants enrolled in ARAD up to May 2009.

To 1st May 2009, 3274 patients across Australia have enrolled in ARAD and 207 rheumatologists are participating.

The mean HAQ and AQL scores for all ARAD patients taking biologics are shown in Table 1.

The number of patient-reported severe infections in patients on biologics is reported in Table 2.

The frequency of patient-reported reasons for discontinuation of biologics is outlined in Table 3.

Current Funding Acknowledgements

- NHMRC Enabling Grant
- Monash University
- Educational grants to the ARA from Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Roche Products Pty Ltd, Wyeth Australia Pty Ltd

Table 1 HAQ and AqoL scores for all ARAD patients receiving biological therapy from commencement of bDMARDs

	HAQ score (0 -3, 0 = no disability)	AQoL score (0.00 = death; 1.00 = full health)
	All ARAD patients (N =2206)	All ARAD patients (N =2206)
Age in most recent questionnaire mean (SD) years	54.6 (14.5)	
Proportion of females (%)	64.4 %	
Timepoint since starting bDMARDs	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
Entry questionnaire (0 months)	1.224 (0.749) n = 1,350	0.487 (0.257) n = 1,350
6 months	1.058 (0.770) n = 1,201	0.534 (0.283) n = 1,200
12 months	1.037 (0.782) n = 1,091	0.544 (0.270) n = 1,090
18 months	1.049 (0.769) n = 933	0.536 (0.274) n = 933
24 months	1.092 (0.791) n = 848	0.526 (0.277) n = 849
30 months	1.102 (0.806) n = 716	0.515 (0.289) n = 716
36 months	1.150 (0.805) n = 614	0.517 (0.291) n = 613
42 months	1.195 (0.804) n = 485	0.513 (0.267) n = 485
48 months	1.239 (0.809) n = 332	0.514 (0.257) n = 332
54 months	1.301 (0.815) n = 266	0.493 (0.250) n = 266
60 months	1.231 (0.808) n = 161	0.494 (0.293) n = 161
66 months	1.182 (0.801) n = 89	0.488 (0.244) n = 89
72 months	1.159 (0.888) n = 52	0.519 (0.276) n = 52
78 months	1.157 (0.886) n = 35	0.490 (0.263) n = 35
84 months	1.439 (0.809) n = 20	0.480 (0.237) n = 20
90 months	1.230 (0.888) n = 19	0.472 (0.243) n = 19

Patients with a diagnosis of AS or JCA (≤ 16 yrs old) have a HAQ-S or HAQ-C score respectively calculated. HAQ scores: 0 -3, 0 = no disability, 3 = worst function, being unable to perform most daily activities; AQoL scores: negative scores indicate a state worse than death; 0.00 is death; 1.00 is full health; NB improvements in HAQ and AQoL are in different directions

Table 2 Number of self-reported severe infections* reported in those receiving biologic therapy

Type of infection	Number reported						
	Baseline n=1350	12 months n=1091	24 months n=848	36 months n=614	48 months n=332	60 months n=161	72 months n=52
Skin or nail	20	20	15	10	7	3	3
Eye, ear, nose or throat	24	25	28	8	6	3	-
Heart	-	3	3	-	2	-	1
Chest or lung	21	22	34	13	9	6	1
Stomach, gut, gall bladder or liver	14	8	9	7	2	-	-
Kidney, bladder or urine	13	13	12	8	3	1	1
Bone, joint or muscle	19	14	13	10	5	2	-
Artificial joint or muscle	1	8	2	1	-	3	-
Brain or spinal cord	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blood	2	4	8	7	1	1	-
Viral	14	16	13	7	5	2	1
Other	5	6	7	4	3	1	-
Total severe infections	133	139	144	77	43	22	7
Number of persons with at least one severe infection	96	101	103	58	31	14	6

* An infection is severe if: it caused a major change in activities; a patient saw a doctor; prescription medication gave on partial relief; if a drug or treatment was responsible it may have been stopped

Table 3 Summary of reasons for discontinuation of biological therapy

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Etanercept n=452</i>	<i>Infliximab n=184</i>	<i>Adalimumab n=363</i>	<i>Anakinra n=33</i>	<i>Rituximab n=34</i>	<i>Abatacept n=6</i>
Lack of efficacy	169	74	154	13	20	1
Side effect (i-xi)	111	37	87	5	1	2
i) Allergic reaction	17	11	12	1	1	-
ii) General	29	14	26	1	-	1
iii) Skin	34	8	55	3	-	1
iv) Eye/Ear/Nose/Throat	11	1	1	-	-	-
v) Stomach/Bowel/Liver	12	3	6	-	-	-
vi) Lungs	10	5	7	-	-	-
vii) Cardiovascular	15	10	8	-	-	-
viii) Neurological & psychological	9	3	8	-	-	1
ix) Infections	24	1	17	-	-	-
x) Abnormal tests	16	3	4	1	-	1
xi) Other	1	1	-	-	-	-
Arthritis improved	4	1	6	-	1	-
Too sick from other illness	20	4	14	1	1	-
Failed PBS criteria	19	9	12	2	1	-
Preparing for surgery	8	-	6	-	-	1
Planning pregnancy	12	2	5	-	1	-
Clinical trial finished	-	8	-	4	2	-
Did not like it	-	2	2	-	-	-
Other	8	-	6	-	2	-
Started new drug	66	34	46	1	2	2
Not specified	30	11	25	7	3	-

Data in this table represent the frequency of nominal responses selected by patients for therapy discontinuation for each bDMARD.