

# Assessment of tocilizumab prescriptions at a university hospital

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## BACKGROUND

Tocilizumab (TCZ) is an anti-IL-6 given as second-line of biotherapy in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Local prescription guidelines of TCZ indicate that it must be administered after anti-TNF- $\alpha$  failure.

## PURPOSE

To assess the prescriptions of TCZ and confront them to the existent guidelines since there is an increasing number of treated patients at a university hospital.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted over a period of 20 months, from January 2010 (marketing of TCZ) to July 2011.

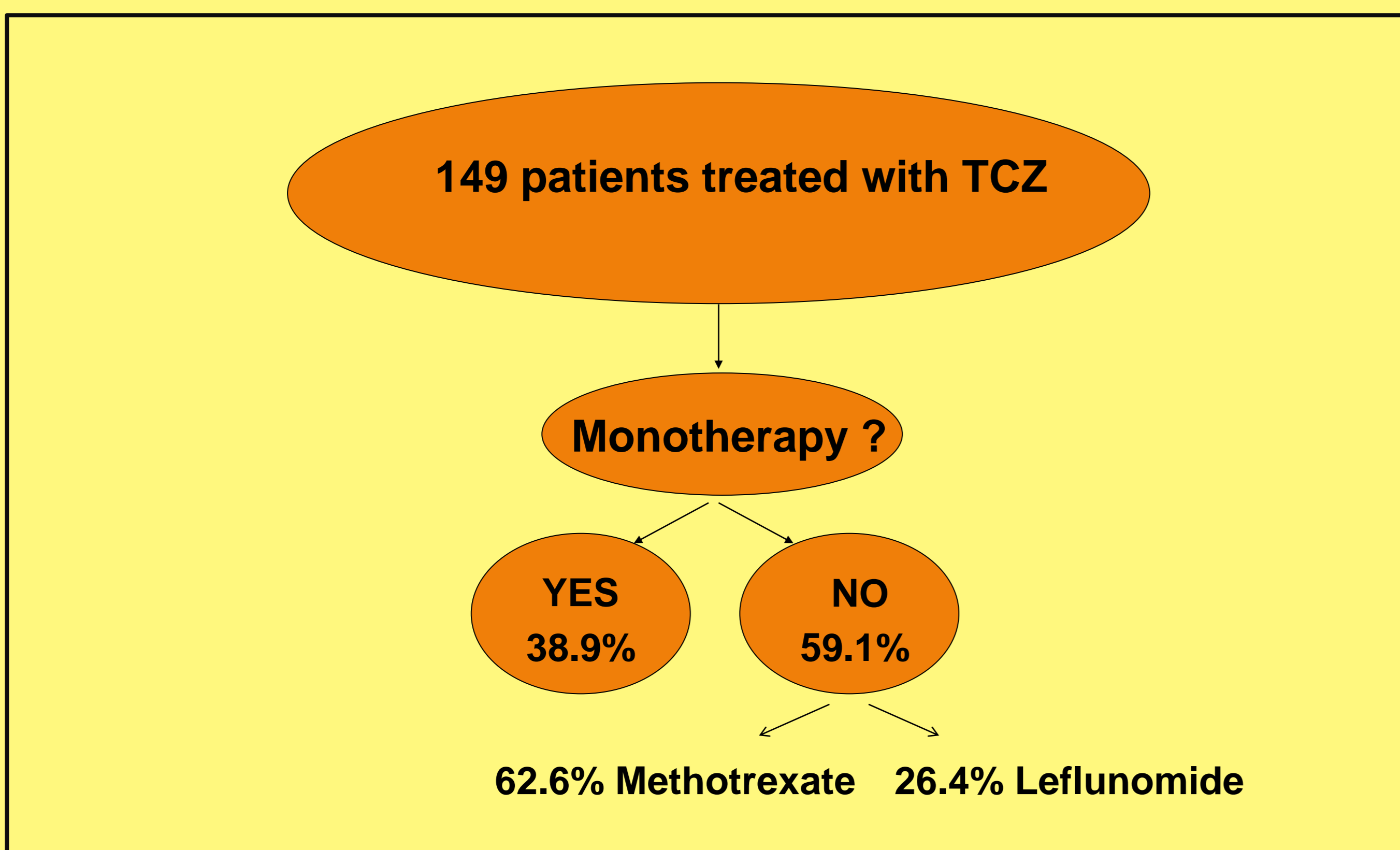
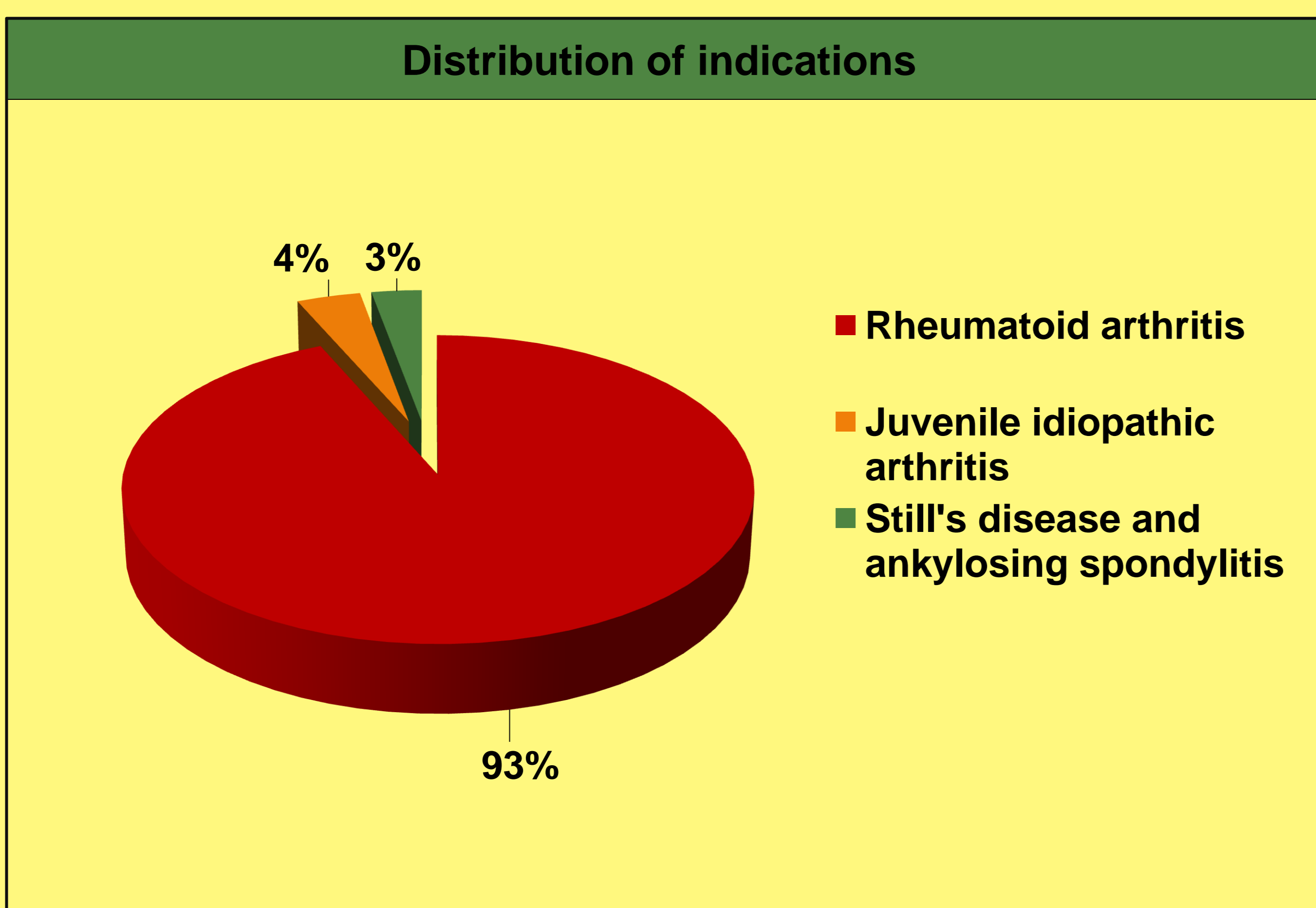
Patients treated with TCZ were identified thanks to the hospital information database.

Data collected were :

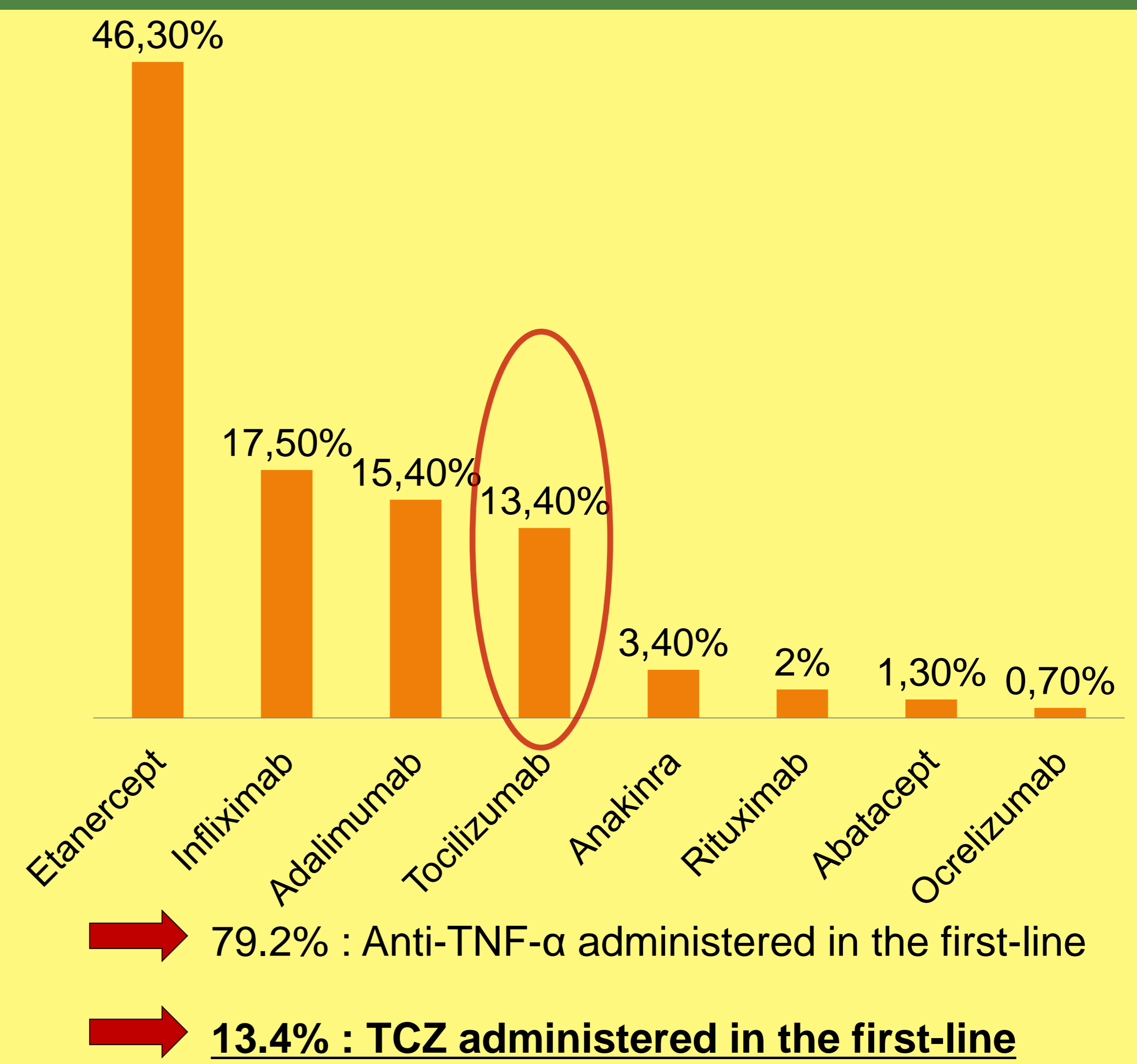
- Indications
- Previous treatment
- Number of anti-TNF- $\alpha$  drugs used before TCZ
- Associated to the conventional treatment
- Implemented biotherapy in the case of failure of TCZ

## RESULTS

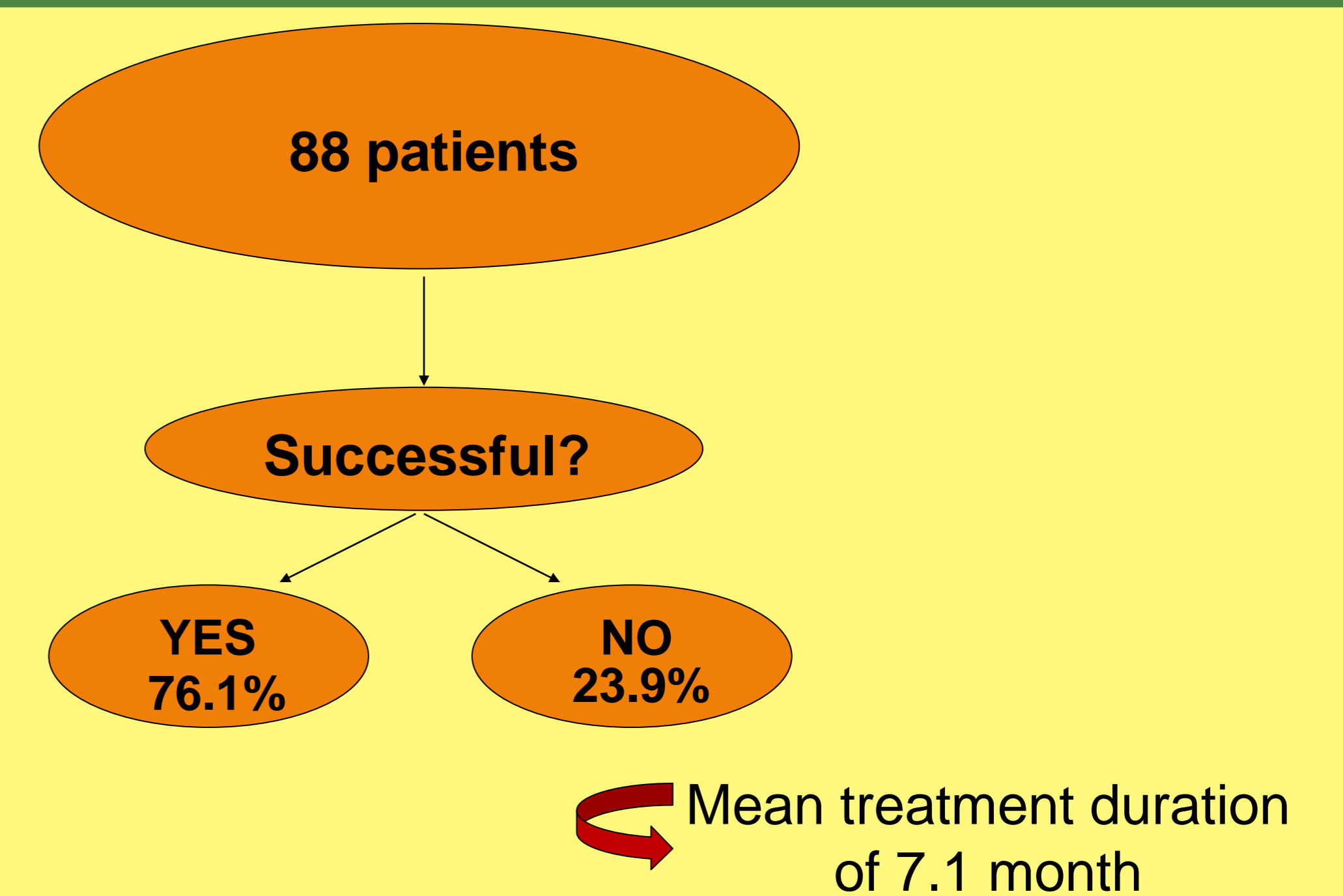
149 patients treated with TCZ



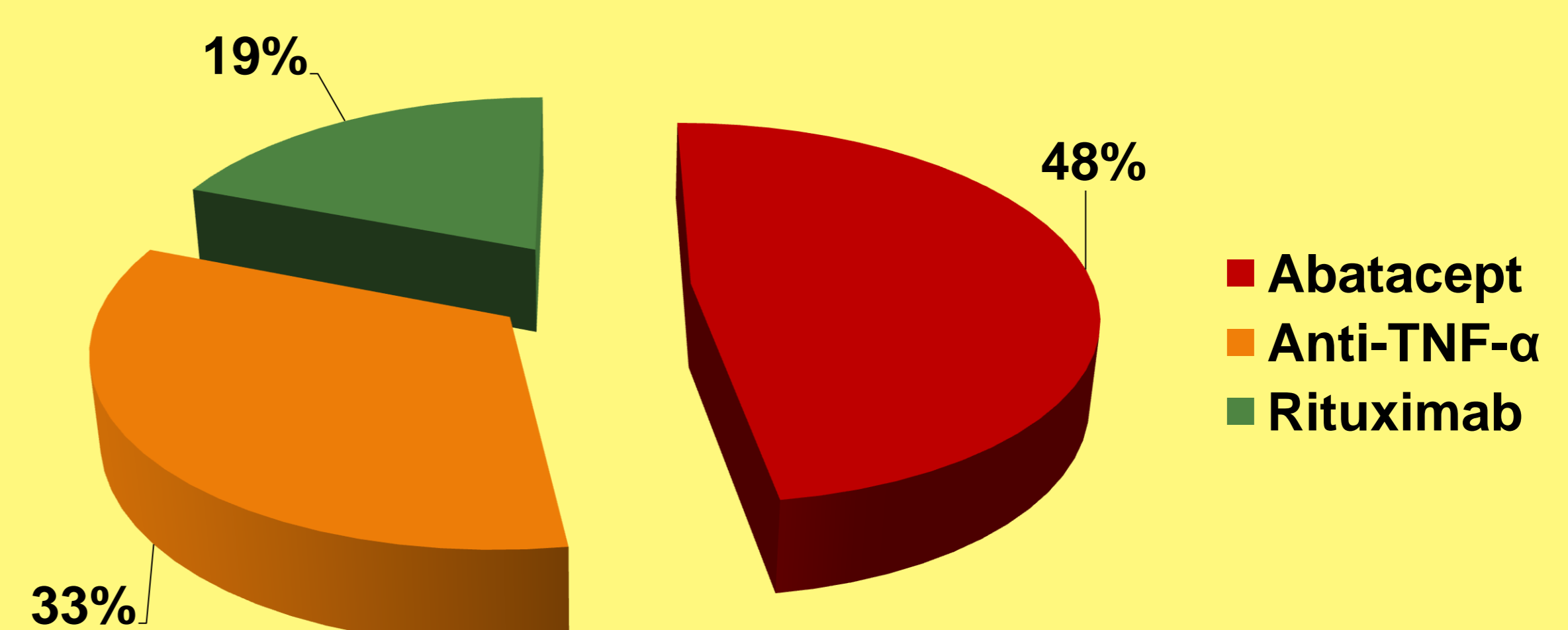
## Distribution of the first biotherapy



## Assessment of effectiveness of TCZ in 88 patients (patients who have not started their treatment in clinical trial and in the last 6 months of the study)



## Distribution of the biotherapy in the case of failure of TCZ



## CONCLUSIONS

The TCZ is an active molecule in the treatment of RA. Our guidelines are not always respected since TCZ is used as a first-line biotherapy for 13.4% of patients. Further evaluation of this early use is needed to understand the practice of the prescribers.