

# RITUXIMAB EFFICACY IN THE TREATMENT OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

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## Background

The treatment of rare autoimmune diseases presents for patients the additional problem of limited therapeutic options, which are usually reduced to corticosteroids and immunosuppressants.

The use of rituximab for the treatment of these diseases could be an effective alternative.

## Objectives

To determine the effectiveness of treatment with rituximab in autoimmune diseases.

## Methods

Retrospective observational study of patients with autoimmune diseases who were treated with rituximab between January 2008 - March 2014. Data collection was conducted through electronic prescription records. As study variables diagnosis, reason for prescribing, previous and concomitant treatments, dosage, recurrence and outcome of treatment were collected.

## Results

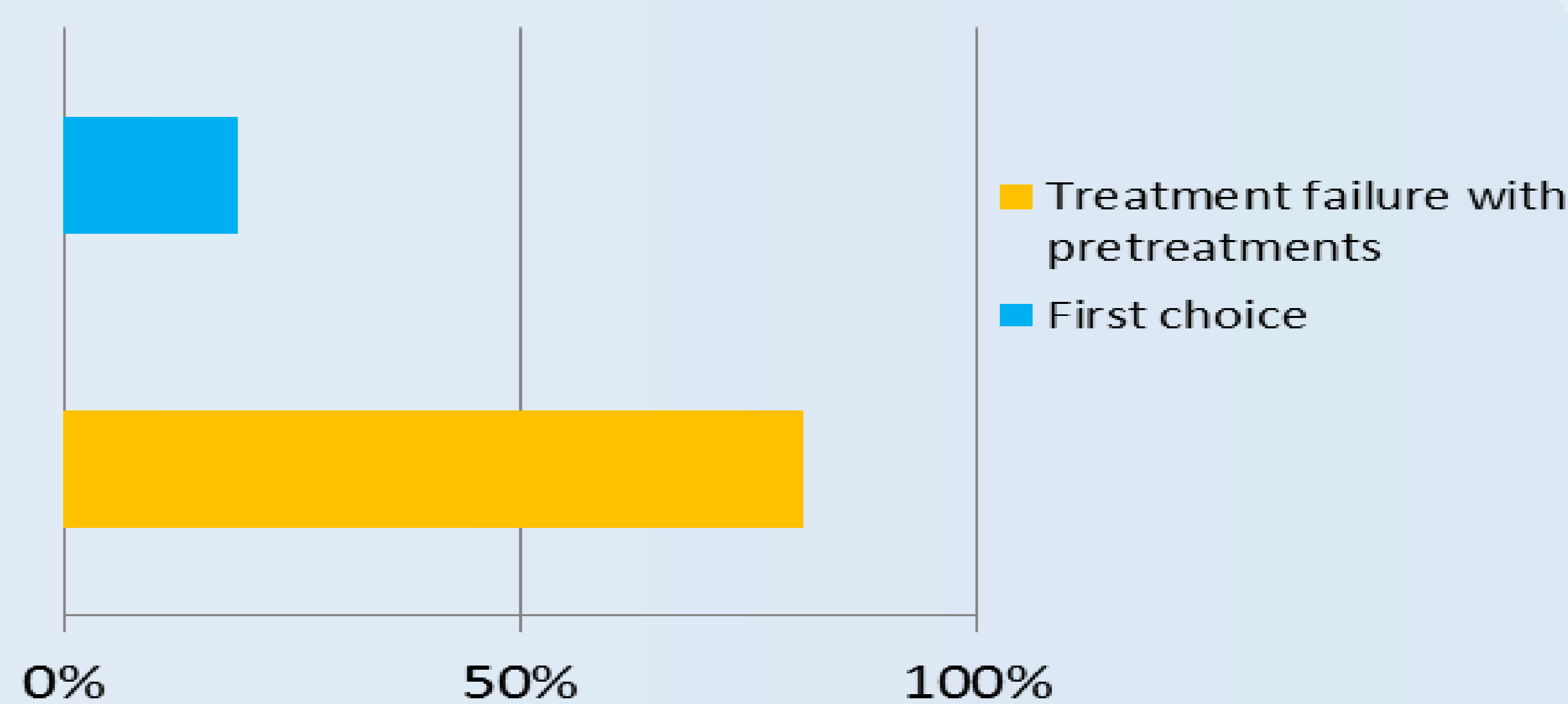
11 patients, 36% male, mean age 47 years

### Diseases distribution

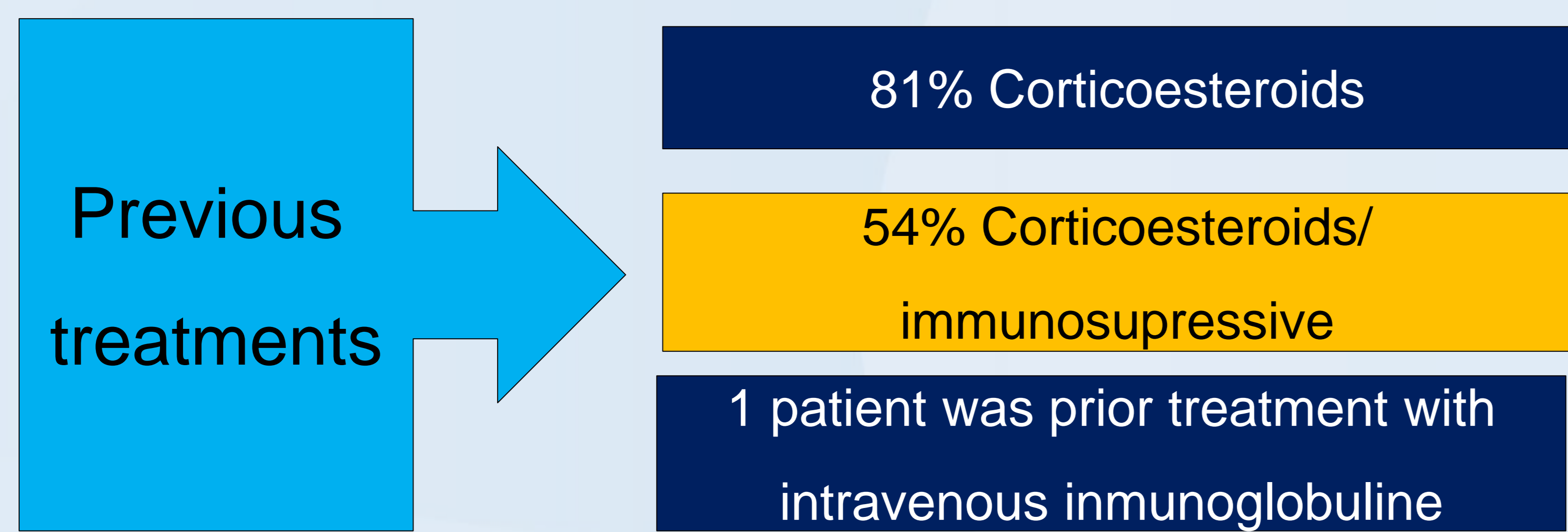


- Lupus erythematosus
- Thrombocytopenia autoimmune
- Miscellaneous

### Reason to use rituximab

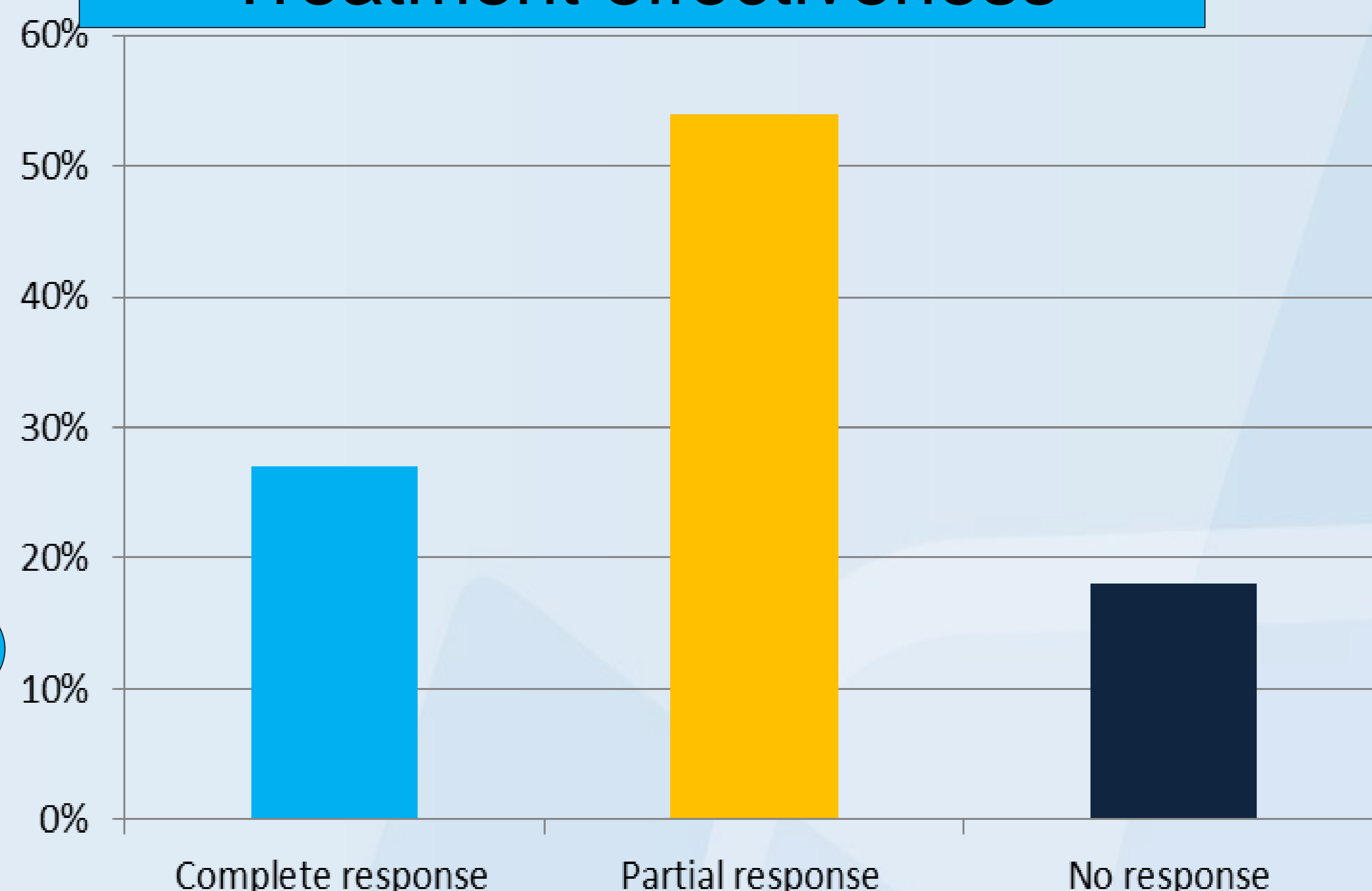


81% 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> week for 4 weeks  
 19% 1000 mg on days 1 and 15



54% of patients received only one cycle of rituximab  
 27% currently remain in treatment  
 18% died due progression of their disease

### Treatment effectiveness



## Conclusions

Although its effectiveness is variable depending on the type of pathology, rituximab may be a valid therapeutic option in autoimmune diseases. Randomized controlled studies are necessary to ensure the various indications of rituximab.

**Conflict of interest: Nothing to disclose**