

# EVALUATION OF TOCILIZUMAB RESPONSE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS WITH THE CLINICAL TRIAL

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**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE:** Tocilizumab (TCZ) is a humanized monoclonal antibody inhibitor of IL-6 receptor, indicated in combination with methotrexate in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in patients with inadequate response or intolerance to prior therapy. The goal of this study is to compare the efficacy of TCZ obtained in our study with that obtained in the clinical trial.



**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** Descriptive observational study of all patients diagnosed with RA and treated with TCZ from March 2009 until January 2015. Demographic data were collected by reviewing medical records of patients: age, sex, race, weight, height, rheumatoid factor (RF) and erosions, prior and concomitant therapy. DAS28 at baseline and 24 weeks for each patient were calculated and EULAR response was assessed: remission DAS28 <2.6, good response DAS28 <3.2 and change in DAS28 > 1.2, moderate response DAS28 > 3.2 and change in DAS28 between 0.6-1.2

## RESULTS

	n= 176 n (%) or mean (±sd)
Women	146 (82.19%)
Age	52.92 (± 10.74)
Weight	72.6 kg (± 14.5)
Height	162 cm (± 7.27)
FR positive	47 (26.7%)
Erosions	54 (30.6%)
Previous DMARD	164 (93.2%)
<b>Concomitant Therapy</b>	
Methotrexate	94 (53.4%)
Leflunomide	10 (5.5%)
Sulfasalazine	5 (2.7%)

Baseline characteristics.

	DAS28 Mean (±sd)
Baseline	5.5412 (± 1.08)
24 Weeks	2.7921 (± 1.17)
Difference*	2.74

\*Mean difference between DAS28 at baseline and at 24 weeks

	Response (EULAR)		
	Good	Moderate	Remission
n=176	63%	30.13%	49.3%
Clinical Trial	38%	41%	27%

Response to the treatment with Tocilizumab according to the EULAR criteria.

## CONCLUSION:

In our study, Tocilizumab has shown a comparable response to that showed in the clinical trial, the efficacy was higher in good response and remission.