

CAUSES OF BIOTHERAPY DISCONTINUATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Marwa Bekey(1) , Rim Grassa(1) , Khadija Baccouche(2), Narimene Ben Chekaya(1), Jguirim Mahbouba (1), Saoussen Zrour(1) , Ismail Bejia (1)
 (1) Department of Rheumatology , Fattouma Bourguiba Hospital , Monastir
 (2) Department of Rheumatology , Farhat Hached Hoapital , Sousse

○ Introduction:

- The advent of biotherapies has revolutionized the management of chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases.
- However, in some situations, their temporary or definitive discontinuation is necessary.

○ Objective:

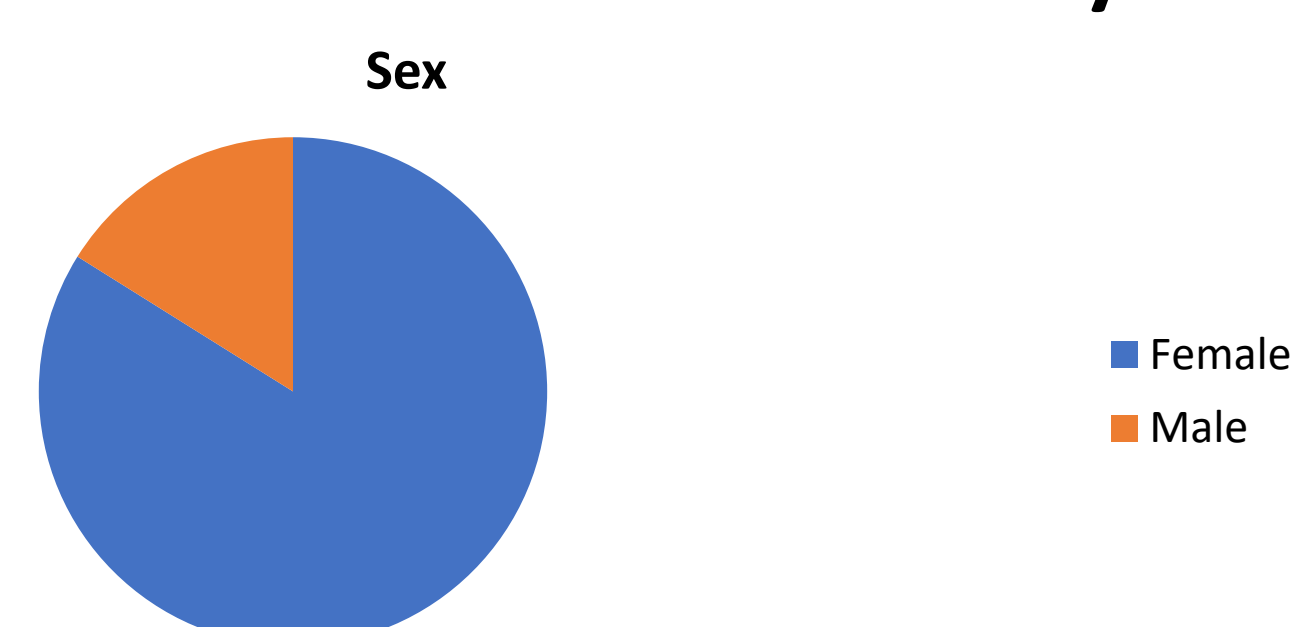
- The aim of our study is to analyze the reasons for discontinuation of biotherapies in rheumatoid arthritis.

○ Methods:

- We retrospectively analyzed the files of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with biotherapies between 2000 and 2021.
- We recorded the following data:
 - Epidemiological characteristics
 - Indications for biological treatment
 - Duration of treatment
 - Reasons for discontinuation

○ Results:

- 118 patient records were analyzed:



- The mean age was 56.86 years [range: 28–81 years].
- Anti-TNF α therapy was prescribed in 67 cases:
 - Infliximab: 27 cases
 - Etanercept: 16 cases
 - Certolizumab: 13 cases
 - Adalimumab: 9 cases
 - Golimumab: 2 cases

- Anti-IL6 and anti-CD20 therapies were prescribed in:
 - 24 cases (anti-IL6)
 - 27 cases (anti-CD20)
- Discontinuation of biotherapy occurred in 54 cases:
 - Anti-TNF: 37 cases (68.51%)
 - Anti-CD20: 15 cases (27.7%)
 - Anti-IL6: 2 cases (3.7%)
- Discontinuation by anti-TNF molecule:
 - Infliximab: 19 cases
 - Etanercept: 10 cases
 - Adalimumab: 4 cases
 - Certolizumab: 3 cases
 - Golimumab: 1 case
- Causes of discontinuation:
 - Adverse effects: 56% of cases

Adverse effects :	Cases :
Infections	57
Skin reactions	4
Systemic allergic reactions	2
Neutropenia	2
Hepatic cytolysis	1

- Lack of effectiveness: 54 cases

○ Conclusion:

- Biotherapies have transformed the prognosis of refractory forms of RA.
- The frequency and severity of adverse effects can be reduced by:
 - Respecting the pre-therapeutic assessment
 - Providing rigorous patient education
 - Ensuring careful follow-up