Rheumatology Evidence Update
April 2015
Produced by the UHL Clinical Librarian Service

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NICE Guidance

There were no new guidelines published this issue

New and Updated Cochrane Systematic Reviews

1) TNF-alpha inhibitors for ankylosing spondylitis

Authors’ conclusions: There is moderate to high quality evidence that anti-TNF agents improve clinical symptoms in the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. More participants withdrew due to adverse events when on an anti-TNF agent but we did not find evidence of an increase in serious adverse events, though event rates were low and trials had a short duration. The short-term toxicity profile appears acceptable. Based on indirect comparison methodology, we are uncertain whether there are differences between anti-TNF agents in terms of the key benefit or harm outcomes.

Practice changing research, sourced from Dynamed
Combination therapies for rheumatoid arthritis Updated 2015 Apr 06

2) Treatment strategy using combination nonbiologic DMARDs may be as effective for reducing disability in rheumatoid arthritis as TNF inhibitor-based treatment (BMJ 2015 Mar 13) view update

Degenerative joint disease of the carpometacarpal joint of thumb Updated 2015 Mar 30

3) Insufficient evidence to determine benefits of surgery in patients with thumb osteoarthritis (Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2015 Feb 23) view update

Neck pain Updated 2015 Mar 24:

4) Auriculopressure improves pain in adults with nonspecific chronic neck and back pain (Acupunct Med 2014 Jun) view update

5) Neck-specific strengthening plus stabilization or stretching exercises or combination of Qigong plus movement exercises may improve pain in patients with chronic mechanical neck disorders (Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2015 Jan 28) view update

Biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) for rheumatoid arthritis Updated 2015 Feb 23

6) addition of rituximab to methotrexate may improve symptoms in adults with rheumatoid arthritis (Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2015 Jan 20) view update

Good Quality Systematic Reviews

7) Giant cell arteritis: a systematic review of the qualitative and semiquantitative methods to assess vasculitis with 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography

8) A meta-analysis of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors and glucocorticoids on bone density in rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis trials

9) Comparative evaluation of cardiovascular outcomes in patients with osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis on recommended doses of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

10) Tumor necrosis factor-alpha inhibitor combined with methotrexate for ankylosing spondylitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

11) Moxibustion for treating rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

12) Positron emission tomography with 18F-FDG in the evaluation of patients with rheumatoid arthritis - a systematic review

13) Biological therapies in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of opportunistic infections: a meta-analysis

14) Therapy gloves for patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a review
15) The impact of statins therapy on disease activity and inflammatory factor in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a meta-analysis

16) The efficacy and safety of certolizumab pegol (CZP) in the treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis (RA): a meta-analysis from nine randomized controlled trials

17) Thromboembolic disease in patients with rheumatoid arthritis undergoing joint arthroplasty: update on prophylaxes

18) Computer-Based Diagnostic Expert Systems in Rheumatology: Where Do We Stand in 2014?

19) Scleroderma and evidence based non-pharmaceutical treatment modalities for digital ulcers: a systematic review

Economic Evaluations

20) Treating to target with etanercept in rheumatoid arthritis: cost-effectiveness of dose reductions when remission is achieved

21) Economic evaluation of a brief education, self-management and upper limb Exercise Training in People with Rheumatoid Arthritis (EXTRA) programme: a trial-based analysis

22) Treatment of moderate rheumatoid arthritis with different strategies in a health resource-limited setting: a cost-effectiveness analysis in the era of biosimilars

23) Joint protection and hand exercises for hand osteoarthritis: an economic evaluation comparing methods for the analysis of factorial trials

Other Sources

24) Efficacy and safety of paracetamol for spinal pain and osteoarthritis: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised placebo controlled trials.

25) EULAR recommendations for the use of imaging in the diagnosis and management of spondyloarthritis in clinical practice.

26) Treatment of systemic necrotizing vasculitides in patients aged sixty-five years or older: results of a multicenter, open-label, randomized controlled trial of corticosteroid and cyclophosphamide-based induction therapy.

27) Tofacitinib With Methotrexate in Third-Line Treatment of Patients With Active Rheumatoid Arthritis: Patient-Reported Outcomes From a Phase III Trial.

28) Four Anti-dsDNA Antibody Assays in Relation to Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Specificity and Activity.

30) Disease activity guided dose reduction and withdrawal of adalimumab or etanercept compared with usual care in rheumatoid arthritis: open label, randomised controlled, non-inferiority trial.

31) Differences and similarities in rheumatology specialty training programmes across European countries.

32) Evaluation of the Benefit of Corticosteroid Injection Before Exercise Therapy in Patients With Osteoarthritis of the Knee: A Randomized Clinical Trial

33) Valgus bracing for knee osteoarthritis: a meta-analysis of randomized trials.

34) The effect of tofacitinib on pneumococcal and influenza vaccine responses in rheumatoid arthritis.

35) Interventions for reducing inflammation in familial Mediterranean fever.

36) Strengthening And stretching for Rheumatoid Arthritis of the Hand (SARAH). A randomised controlled trial and economic evaluation.

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Best Practice and Research Clinical Rheumatology
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