

Plain Language Summary of Study Results

Astellas is grateful to the people who took part in this clinical study. Thank you.

What was the Study Called?

A Study Comparing Tacrolimus With Methotrexate When Given With Biologics in People with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Why was the Study Needed?

The immune system is part of the body that fights foreign objects or infections. People with rheumatoid arthritis have a faulty immune system that attacks the body's own tissues around their joints. This causes swelling, stiffness and pain in the joints, eventually leading to joint damage.

People with rheumatoid arthritis are usually treated with more than 1 medicine. This is to improve symptoms and to slow down joint damage. Medicines such as methotrexate are often given with another type of medicine called a biologic. A biologic is a medicine that is made in cells. However, this treatment does not work well for everyone.

Tacrolimus is a type of medicine called an immunosuppressant, which controls the response of the faulty immune system. There was a need for information on tacrolimus when given with a biologic to people with rheumatoid arthritis.

In this study, people with rheumatoid arthritis were treated either with tacrolimus and a biologic, or methotrexate and a biologic.

The study started in February 2019. The sponsor (Astellas) stopped the study in June 2020. The study was stopped earlier than planned for reasons that were not related to study treatments. The sponsor of this study (Astellas) reviewed all the study information and created a report of the results. This is a summary of that report.

What were the Main Questions in this Study?

- Did people with rheumatoid arthritis treated with tacrolimus and a biologic have symptoms that were no worse than those treated with methotrexate and a biologic?
- Did these people have any medical problems from the study medicines (tacrolimus or methotrexate), taken with a biologic?

What Kind of Study was this and Who Took Part in It?

This was an “open-label” study. That means that each person with rheumatoid arthritis and the study doctors knew which study medicine that person took (tacrolimus or methotrexate) with a biologic.

This study included people with rheumatoid arthritis from 19 to 75 years old. They had been treated with methotrexate with a biologic at least 2 months before they joined the study.

	Number of People
Age Group Aged 27 to 72 years old	30
Sex Men	1
Women	29

Where did the Study Take Place?

This study took place at 15 clinics in the Republic of Korea. 30 people were in the study. Out of these, 21 people took at least 1 dose of study medicine (tacrolimus or methotrexate) with a biologic.

What Happened during the Study?

The study doctor did a check-up of the people at several study visits. At the first visit, people were checked to see if they could be in the study. People who could be in the study were picked for 1 of 2 treatments by chance alone:

- 1.5 to 3.0 milligrams (mg) of tacrolimus capsules with a biologic.
- 7.5 to 20 mg methotrexate tablets with a biologic.

People took the study medicines (tacrolimus or methotrexate) with a biologic for 12 weeks. The starting dose of the study medicines depended on their symptoms and was decided by the study doctor. People who took tacrolimus capsules stayed on the same dose during treatment. The study doctor could change the dose of methotrexate during treatment.

What Were the Study Results?

Of the 21 people who took at least 1 dose of study medicine, 10 took tacrolimus capsules and 11 took methotrexate tablets.

The main question this study hoped to answer was did people with rheumatoid arthritis treated with tacrolimus and a biologic have symptoms that were no worse than those treated with methotrexate and a biologic?

When this study was stopped, there were not enough people in the study to answer this question.

What Adverse Reactions did People Have in this Study?

A lot of research is needed to know whether a medicine causes a medical problem. So when new medicines are being studied, researchers keep track of all medical problems that people have while they are in the study. These problems are called “adverse events” and are recorded whether or not they might be caused by the treatment taken. An “adverse reaction” is any medical problem or “adverse event” that is judged by the study doctor to be possibly caused by a medicine or treatment used in the study.

3 people (14.3 %, or 3 out of 21 people) had adverse reactions in this study. None of the people who took methotrexate had adverse reactions.

The table below shows the adverse reactions experienced by people who took study medicine in this study.

Adverse Reaction	Tacrolimus (out of 10 people)	Methotrexate (out of 11 people)
Inflammation (swelling and redness) of the bladder	1 (10.0%)	0
Difficulty sleeping or falling asleep	1 (10.0%)	0
Increased blood level of potassium	1 (10.0%)	0

Did any of the People in this Study have Serious Adverse Reactions?

An adverse reaction is considered “serious” when it is life-threatening, causes lasting problems or needs hospital care.

Nobody had any serious adverse reactions in this study.

Where Can I Learn More About This Study?

This document is a short summary of the main results from this study. You can find this summary and more information about this study online at <http://www.astellasclinicalstudyresults.com>.

Please remember that researchers look at the results of many studies to find out how well medicines work and which adverse reactions they might cause. This summary only shows the results of this 1 study. Your doctor may help you understand more about the results of this study.

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