

TUBERCULOSIS REACTIVATION

- There is no evidence indicating the necessity to screen patients systematically for TB before using rituximab.⁽¹⁾
- The safety and efficacy of rituximab was demonstrated in case reports of RA patients who had developed TB while under treatment with anti-TNF or who had a history of the treatment for pulmonary TB.⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾
- Patients considered high risk for reactivation of TB (Previous TB disease or exposure to TB, Interferon-gamma release assay, i.e. QuantiFERON, Chest X-ray abnormalities) can be considered for chemoprophylaxis. (Isoniazid, Rifampicin or fluoroquinolones).⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾

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 - (2) Jung N, Owczarczyk K, Hellmann M, Lehmann C, Fätkenheuer G, Hallek M, et al. Efficacy and safety of rituximab in a patient with active rheumatoid arthritis and chronic disseminated pulmonary aspergillosis and history of tuberculosis. *Rheumatology (Oxford)* 2008;47:932–3.
 - (3) Pehlivan Y, Kisacik B, Bosnak VK, Onat AM. Rituximab seems to be a safer alternative in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis with tuberculosis. *BMJ Case Rep*. 2013;2013 pii: Bcr2012006585.
 - (4) Alkadi, Amjad, Najla Alduaiji, and Ali Alrehaily. 2017. "Risk of Tuberculosis Reactivation with Rituximab Therapy." *International Journal of Health Sciences* 11 (2): 41–44.
 - (5) Gea-Banacloche, Juan C. 2010. "Rituximab-Associated Infections." *Seminars in Hematology* 47 (2): 187–98.
 - (6) Sterling, Timothy R., Gibril Njie, Dominik Zenner, David L. Cohn, Randall Reves, Amina Ahmed, Dick Menzies, et al. 2020. "Guidelines for the Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection: Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, 2020." *MMWR. Recommendations and Reports: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Recommendations and Reports / Centers for Disease Control* 69 (1): 1–11.

