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ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ

Медицинские новости Грузии
საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი

GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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GMN: Georgian Medical News is peer-reviewed, published monthly journal committed to promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health, published by the GMN Editorial Board since 1994. GMN carries original scientific articles on medicine, biology and pharmacy, which are of experimental, theoretical and practical character; publishes original research, reviews, commentaries, editorials, essays, medical news, and correspondence in English and Russian.

GMN is indexed in MEDLINE, SCOPUS, PubMed and VINITI Russian Academy of Sciences. The full text content is available through EBSCO databases.

GMN: Медицинские новости Грузии - ежемесячный рецензируемый научный журнал, издаётся Редакционной коллегией с 1994 года на русском и английском языках в целях поддержки медицинской науки и улучшения здравоохранения. В журнале публикуются оригинальные научные статьи в области медицины, биологии и фармации, статьи обзорного характера, научные сообщения, новости медицины и здравоохранения. Журнал индексируется в MEDLINE, отражён в базе данных SCOPUS, PubMed и ВИНТИ РАН. Полнотекстовые статьи журнала доступны через БД EBSCO.

GMN: Georgian Medical News – საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი – არის ყოველთვიური სამეცნიერო სამედიცინო რეცენზირებადი ჟურნალი, გამოიცემა 1994 წლიდან, წარმოადგენს სარედაქციო კოლეგიისა და აშშ-ის მეცნიერების, განათლების, ინდუსტრიის, ხელოვნებისა და ბუნებისმეტყველების საერთაშორისო აკადემიის ერთობლივ გამოცემას. GMN-ში რუსულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე ქვეყნდება ექსპერიმენტული, თეორიული და პრაქტიკული ხასიათის ორიგინალური სამეცნიერო სტატიები მედიცინის, ბიოლოგიისა და ფარმაციის სფეროში, მიმოხილვითი ხასიათის სტატიები.

ჟურნალი ინდექსირებულია MEDLINE-ის საერთაშორისო სისტემაში, ასახულია SCOPUS-ის, PubMed-ის და ВИНТИ РАН-ის მონაცემთა ბაზებში. სტატიების სრული ტექსტი ხელმისაწვდომია EBSCO-ს მონაცემთა ბაზებშიდან.

WEBSITE

www.geomednews.com

К СВЕДЕНИЮ АВТОРОВ!

При направлении статьи в редакцию необходимо соблюдать следующие правила:

1. Статья должна быть представлена в двух экземплярах, на русском или английском языках, напечатанная через **полтора интервала на одной стороне стандартного листа с шириной левого поля в три сантиметра**. Используемый компьютерный шрифт для текста на русском и английском языках - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, для текста на грузинском языке следует использовать **AcadNusx**. Размер шрифта - **12**. К рукописи, напечатанной на компьютере, должен быть приложен CD со статьей.

2. Размер статьи должен быть не менее десяти и не более двадцати страниц машинописи, включая указатель литературы и резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках.

3. В статье должны быть освещены актуальность данного материала, методы и результаты исследования и их обсуждение.

При представлении в печать научных экспериментальных работ авторы должны указывать вид и количество экспериментальных животных, применявшиеся методы обезболивания и усыпления (в ходе острых опытов).

4. К статье должны быть приложены краткое (на полстраницы) резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках (включающее следующие разделы: цель исследования, материал и методы, результаты и заключение) и список ключевых слов (key words).

5. Таблицы необходимо представлять в печатной форме. Фотокопии не принимаются. **Все цифровые, итоговые и процентные данные в таблицах должны соответствовать таковым в тексте статьи**. Таблицы и графики должны быть озаглавлены.

6. Фотографии должны быть контрастными, фотокопии с рентгенограмм - в позитивном изображении. Рисунки, чертежи и диаграммы следует озаглавить, пронумеровать и вставить в соответствующее место текста **в tiff формате**.

В подписях к микрофотографиям следует указывать степень увеличения через окуляр или объектив и метод окраски или импрегнации срезов.

7. Фамилии отечественных авторов приводятся в оригинальной транскрипции.

8. При оформлении и направлении статей в журнал МНГ просим авторов соблюдать правила, изложенные в «Единых требованиях к рукописям, представляемым в биомедицинские журналы», принятых Международным комитетом редакторов медицинских журналов - <http://www.spinesurgery.ru/files/publish.pdf> и http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html В конце каждой оригинальной статьи приводится библиографический список. В список литературы включаются все материалы, на которые имеются ссылки в тексте. Список составляется в алфавитном порядке и нумеруется. Литературный источник приводится на языке оригинала. В списке литературы сначала приводятся работы, написанные знаками грузинского алфавита, затем кириллицей и латиницей. Ссылки на цитируемые работы в тексте статьи даются в квадратных скобках в виде номера, соответствующего номеру данной работы в списке литературы. Большинство цитированных источников должны быть за последние 5-7 лет.

9. Для получения права на публикацию статья должна иметь от руководителя работы или учреждения визу и сопроводительное отношение, написанные или напечатанные на бланке и заверенные подписью и печатью.

10. В конце статьи должны быть подписи всех авторов, полностью приведены их фамилии, имена и отчества, указаны служебный и домашний номера телефонов и адреса или иные координаты. Количество авторов (соавторов) не должно превышать пяти человек.

11. Редакция оставляет за собой право сокращать и исправлять статьи. Корректур авторам не высылаются, вся работа и сверка проводится по авторскому оригиналу.

12. Недопустимо направление в редакцию работ, представленных к печати в иных издательствах или опубликованных в других изданиях.

При нарушении указанных правил статьи не рассматриваются.

REQUIREMENTS

Please note, materials submitted to the Editorial Office Staff are supposed to meet the following requirements:

1. Articles must be provided with a double copy, in English or Russian languages and typed or computer-printed on a single side of standard typing paper, with the left margin of 3 centimeters width, and 1.5 spacing between the lines, typeface - **Times New Roman (Cyrillic)**, print size - 12 (referring to Georgian and Russian materials). With computer-printed texts please enclose a CD carrying the same file titled with Latin symbols.

2. Size of the article, including index and resume in English, Russian and Georgian languages must be at least 10 pages and not exceed the limit of 20 pages of typed or computer-printed text.

3. Submitted material must include a coverage of a topical subject, research methods, results, and review.

Authors of the scientific-research works must indicate the number of experimental biological species drawn in, list the employed methods of anesthetization and soporific means used during acute tests.

4. Articles must have a short (half page) abstract in English, Russian and Georgian (including the following sections: aim of study, material and methods, results and conclusions) and a list of key words.

5. Tables must be presented in an original typed or computer-printed form, instead of a photocopied version. **Numbers, totals, percentile data on the tables must coincide with those in the texts of the articles.** Tables and graphs must be headed.

6. Photographs are required to be contrasted and must be submitted with doubles. Please number each photograph with a pencil on its back, indicate author's name, title of the article (short version), and mark out its top and bottom parts. Drawings must be accurate, drafts and diagrams drawn in Indian ink (or black ink). Photocopies of the X-ray photographs must be presented in a positive image in **tiff format**.

Accurately numbered subtitles for each illustration must be listed on a separate sheet of paper. In the subtitles for the microphotographs please indicate the ocular and objective lens magnification power, method of coloring or impregnation of the microscopic sections (preparations).

7. Please indicate last names, first and middle initials of the native authors, present names and initials of the foreign authors in the transcription of the original language, enclose in parenthesis corresponding number under which the author is listed in the reference materials.

8. Please follow guidance offered to authors by The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidance in its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals publication available online at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html
http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf

In GMN style for each work cited in the text, a bibliographic reference is given, and this is located at the end of the article under the title "References". All references cited in the text must be listed. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically and then numbered. References are numbered in the text [numbers in square brackets] and in the reference list and numbers are repeated throughout the text as needed. The bibliographic description is given in the language of publication (citations in Georgian script are followed by Cyrillic and Latin).

9. To obtain the rights of publication articles must be accompanied by a visa from the project instructor or the establishment, where the work has been performed, and a reference letter, both written or typed on a special signed form, certified by a stamp or a seal.

10. Articles must be signed by all of the authors at the end, and they must be provided with a list of full names, office and home phone numbers and addresses or other non-office locations where the authors could be reached. The number of the authors (co-authors) must not exceed the limit of 5 people.

11. Editorial Staff reserves the rights to cut down in size and correct the articles. Proof-sheets are not sent out to the authors. The entire editorial and collation work is performed according to the author's original text.

12. Sending in the works that have already been assigned to the press by other Editorial Staffs or have been printed by other publishers is not permissible.

**Articles that Fail to Meet the Aforementioned
Requirements are not Assigned to be Reviewed.**

ავტორთა საქურაღებოლ!

რედაქციაში სტატიის წარმოდგენისას საჭიროა დაიცვათ შემდეგი წესები:

1. სტატია უნდა წარმოადგინოთ 2 ცალად, რუსულ ან ინგლისურ ენებზე დაბეჭდილი სტანდარტული ფურცლის 1 გვერდზე, 3 სმ სიგანის მარცხენა ველისა და სტრიქონებს შორის 1,5 ინტერვალის დაცვით. გამოყენებული კომპიუტერული შრიფტი რუსულ და ინგლისურენოვან ტექსტებში - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, ხოლო ქართულენოვან ტექსტში საჭიროა გამოვიყენოთ **AcadNusx**. შრიფტის ზომა – 12. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს CD სტატიით.

2. სტატიის მოცულობა არ უნდა შეადგენდეს 10 გვერდზე ნაკლებს და 20 გვერდზე მეტს ლიტერატურის სიის და რეზიუმეების (ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე) ჩათვლით.

3. სტატიაში საჭიროა გაშუქდეს: საკითხის აქტუალობა; კვლევის მიზანი; საკვლევი მასალა და გამოყენებული მეთოდები; მიღებული შედეგები და მათი განსჯა. ექსპერიმენტული ხასიათის სტატიების წარმოდგენისას ავტორებმა უნდა მიუთითონ საექსპერიმენტო ცხოველების სახეობა და რაოდენობა; გაუტკივარებისა და დაძინების მეთოდები (მწვავე ცდების პირობებში).

4. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს რეზიუმე ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე არანაკლებ ნახევარი გვერდის მოცულობისა (სათაურის, ავტორების, დაწესებულების მითითებით და უნდა შეიცავდეს შემდეგ განყოფილებებს: მიზანი, მასალა და მეთოდები, შედეგები და დასკვნები; ტექსტუალური ნაწილი არ უნდა იყოს 15 სტრიქონზე ნაკლები) და საკვანძო სიტყვების ჩამონათვალი (key words).

5. ცხრილები საჭიროა წარმოადგინოთ ნაბეჭდი სახით. ყველა ციფრული, შემაჯამებელი და პროცენტული მონაცემები უნდა შეესაბამებოდეს ტექსტში მოყვანილს.

6. ფოტოსურათები უნდა იყოს კონტრასტული; სურათები, ნახაზები, დიაგრამები - დასათაურებული, დანომრილი და სათანადო ადგილას ჩასმული. რენტგენოგრამების ფოტოასლები წარმოადგინეთ პოზიტიური გამოსახულებით **tiff** ფორმატში. მიკროფოტოსურათების წარწერებში საჭიროა მიუთითოთ ოკულარის ან ობიექტივის საშუალებით გადიდების ხარისხი, ანათალების შედეგების ან იმპრეგნაციის მეთოდი და აღნიშნოთ სურათის ზედა და ქვედა ნაწილები.

7. სამამულო ავტორების გვარები სტატიაში აღინიშნება ინიციალების თანდართვით, უცხოურისა – უცხოური ტრანსკრიპციით.

8. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს ავტორის მიერ გამოყენებული სამამულო და უცხოური შრომების ბიბლიოგრაფიული სია (ბოლო 5-8 წლის სიღრმით). ანბანური წყობით წარმოდგენილ ბიბლიოგრაფიულ სიაში მიუთითეთ ჯერ სამამულო, შემდეგ უცხოელი ავტორები (გვარი, ინიციალები, სტატიის სათაური, ჟურნალის დასახელება, გამოცემის ადგილი, წელი, ჟურნალის №, პირველი და ბოლო გვერდები). მონოგრაფიის შემთხვევაში მიუთითეთ გამოცემის წელი, ადგილი და გვერდების საერთო რაოდენობა. ტექსტში კვადრატულ ფხიხლებში უნდა მიუთითოთ ავტორის შესაბამისი N ლიტერატურის სიის მიხედვით. მიზანშეწონილია, რომ ციტირებული წყაროების უმეტესი ნაწილი იყოს 5-6 წლის სიღრმის.

9. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს: ა) დაწესებულების ან სამეცნიერო ხელმძღვანელის წარდგინება, დამოწმებული ხელმოწერითა და ბეჭდით; ბ) დარგის სპეციალისტის დამოწმებული რეცენზია, რომელშიც მითითებული იქნება საკითხის აქტუალობა, მასალის საკმაობა, მეთოდის სანდოობა, შედეგების სამეცნიერო-პრაქტიკული მნიშვნელობა.

10. სტატიის ბოლოს საჭიროა ყველა ავტორის ხელმოწერა, რომელთა რაოდენობა არ უნდა აღემატებოდეს 5-ს.

11. რედაქცია იტოვებს უფლებას შეასწოროს სტატია. ტექსტზე მუშაობა და შეჯერება ხდება საავტორო ორიგინალის მიხედვით.

12. დაუშვებელია რედაქციაში ისეთი სტატიის წარდგენა, რომელიც დასაბეჭდად წარდგენილი იყო სხვა რედაქციაში ან გამოქვეყნებული იყო სხვა გამოცემებში.

აღნიშნული წესების დარღვევის შემთხვევაში სტატიები არ განიხილება.

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COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WITH BIOLOGICAL DRUGS IN GEORGIA

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Abstract.

Aim: This study aims to assess the cost-effectiveness of treatment with biological drugs—specifically infliximab, adalimumab, and rituximab—both as monotherapy and in combination therapy for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Additionally, we will identify the factors that influence this process.

Materials and Methods: A total of 60 patients with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (DAS28 > 3.2) were selected for the study. The participants were divided into three groups and two subgroups based on the specific group of drugs they received.

The study was conducted for 12 months. Before and after treatment, health status was assessed with baseline questionnaires (HAQ). Cost-effectiveness assessment of the five-dimensional health status classification methodology using EQ-5D and multiple regression related HAQ score system and disease activity. Patients were also assessed with the general SF-36 health status questionnaire.

Results and Discussion: This study provides important clinical insights as it is a study that directly compares three different biological treatment options for patients with rheumatoid arthritis who have failed standard therapy. All treatment options had a good safety profile. A cost-effectiveness analysis of QALYs found that rituximab was the most effective treatment in patients with severe rheumatoid arthritis who had failed TNF- α inhibitor treatment. In our analysis, drug-related costs depended on drug price, dose, route of administration, and dosing frequency.

Conclusions: According to the results of this study, infliximab was more cost-effective than adalimumab. Therefore, based on the results of the sensitivity analysis, as long as the study parameters do not change significantly, it is suggested that infliximab should be the priority for the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. And rituximab is the most effective treatment option for patients who have failed TNF- α treatment. This advantage is primarily due to differences in drug costs; because efficacy and safety are the same, drug costs may drive decisions about biological treatment.

Key words. Rheumatoid arthritis, cardiovascular system, biological drugs, cost-benefits, cost-effectiveness.

Introduction.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease, and its natural course is characterized by polyarticular inflammation and progressive joint damage. Rheumatoid arthritis mainly affects the joints, although the inflammation may spread to other organs as well. In rheumatoid arthritis, joint deformation and limitation or loss of function develop over time. Rheumatoid arthritis is a serious problem for the public health system. Rheumatoid

arthritis with its course, complications, and outcome is associated with a heavy economic and social burden.

Pharmacological treatment is one of the cornerstones of rheumatoid arthritis treatment. The goal of rheumatoid arthritis treatment is remission or low disease activity. Medical therapy initially includes disease-modifying conventional antirheumatic drugs (cDMARDs) such as methotrexate, sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide, prednisolone, and their combinations. However, not all patients achieve remission or low disease activity due to a lack of treatment efficacy with cDMARDs. Biologic antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), known as biologics, have been used to treat the disease for several decades and include TNF- α inhibitors: adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, and other mechanisms of action-based agents: abatacept, anakinra, rituximab and Tocilizumab.

The introduction of biological antirheumatic drugs in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis has significantly improved the prognosis and outcomes for patients, particularly for those whose conditions are resistant to traditional therapies. However, the high costs associated with these medications underscore the need for cost-effectiveness analyses. There is limited data on the effectiveness of biological therapies with long-term use.

In the cost-effectiveness assessments of these drugs, researchers have published short-term randomized trials that include combined data through extrapolation and modeling. The differences between short-term randomized trials and real-world clinical settings have raised important questions about issues such as the representativeness of the patients included in the trials, as well as discrepancies between the efficacy demonstrated in trials and the effectiveness seen in practice. It's essential to consider factors that could significantly impact the outcomes of short-term randomized studies. Enhancing the representativeness of study participants and designing clear study protocols may lead to overestimations of cost-effectiveness. It is widely accepted that the effectiveness of drugs in controlled clinical trials tends to be higher than in routine clinical practice.

Since the introduction of TNF- α inhibitors in the medical market, the prognosis for patients with rheumatoid arthritis has markedly improved. TNF- α inhibitors are highly effective in controlling disease progression by reducing inflammation and disease activity, as well as slowing radiographic progression and improving the quality of life for patients. Nevertheless, the high costs of TNF- α inhibitors necessitate careful evaluation of their cost-effectiveness to support guidelines for their widespread use in patients with rheumatoid arthritis [1-8].

The purpose of the mentioned study is to determine the cost-effectiveness of treatment with biological drugs (infliximab, adalimumab, rituximab) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, both monotherapy and combined treatment schemes. Let's identify the factors that influence this process. In this paper

we want to learn positive results of using biological drugs in Georgian population due to post-effectiveness, despite high price of drugs. And using these drugs can reduce severity and complication Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Materials and Methods.

60 patients (all woman) with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (DAS28>3.2), age of disease more than 5 years, and unsatisfactory response to methotrexate were selected for the study. Patients were divided into 3 groups:

Group I - consisted of patients (n=30), whose ages ranged from 19 to 60 years (mean age 45.2±9.3 years), who were on standard rheumatoid arthritis therapy (patients get 10-25 mg methotrexate per week. If disease get worthier, we add non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to reduce pain, in some condition we also add corticosteroids) and were considered as a control group.

Group II - was composed of patients who did not have an adequate response to standard therapy and TNF- α inhibitors were added to the treatment, this group was divided into 2 subgroups:

Subgroup II a - included 10 participants, with ages ranging from 20 to 60 years, and an average age of 50.1 \pm 2.1 years. These individuals received a treatment regimen of infliximab combined with methotrexate. The treatment was administered according to the following schedule: 3 mg/kg at the beginning, followed by doses on days 2 and 6, and then every 8 weeks thereafter.

Subgroup II b - composed of patients (n=10), whose ages ranged from 27 to 60 years (mean 44.3±5.4 years), who were refractory to infliximab, and only receiving adalimumab. Patients were given adalimumab 40 mg every other week by subcutaneous injection.

Group III - consisted of patients (n=10), whose ages ranged from 25 to 57 years (mean age 48.4±6.3 years), patients who were refractory to TNF- α inhibitors and received medical treatment along with methotrexate plus immune-biological drug - monoclonal antibodies - Rituximab. Rituximab treatment was carried out at 1000 mg, i.e. Infusion, followed by a second 1000 mg infusion two weeks later, and the next infusion 16 weeks later, a second course was considered. The timing of the repeated treatment course depended on the increase in symptoms and activity of the disease and was at the discretion of the doctor and the patient.

The study was conducted for 12 months. Patients who had already been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (the diagnosis was confirmed by the classification criteria of the American College of Rheumatology 2010 (ACR) and the European League of Rheumatology (EULAR)) during the study period, the following clinical laboratory tests were performed: radiological examination of the joints, complete blood analysis, CRP, RF in the blood. All these clinical studies were performed before and after 3, 6 and 12 months of the study. Health status was assessed with baseline questionnaires (HAQ). Cost-effectiveness assessment of the five-dimensional health status classification methodology using EQ-5D and multiple regression related HAQ score system and disease activity. Patients were also assessed with the general SF-36 health status questionnaire.

Determining cost-effectiveness using ACR (American College of Rheumatology Standardized Response to Treatment) and DAS28 (Rheumatoid Arthritis Activity Score). This entire questionnaire was filed before and after 3, 6 and 12 months of the study.

Results.

Data of patients before the start of treatment and their characterization according to groups are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Data of patients before the start of treatment and their characterization according to groups.

indicators	control group	Infliximab group	Adalimumab group	Rituximab group
quantity	30	10	10	10
Average age	45.2	50.1	44.3	48.4
gender	Fem.	Fem.	Fem.	Fem.
Duration of the disease	>6.2 year	>5.8	>7.3	>6.7
Swollen joints numb.	13	7 to 18	7 to 18	7 to 24
Painful joints numb.	13	12	10	15
Patient's total VAS	61	65	68	70
Pain VAS	61	65	68	70
ESR	41	45	48	55
CRP	43	90	86	96
HAQ	1.8-2.5	1.6-2.7	1.8-2.5	1.6-2.1
EQ-5D	1.41	1.42	1.44	1.52
DAS-28	>6.2	>5.3	>7.3	>6.7
Assessment (VAS)	66	75	70	79

In both subgroups of Group II, the mean HAQ scores measured three months after the initiation of treatment were at their highest, indicating significant functional disability despite the use of conventional DMARD therapy. However, substantial improvement was observed in patients three months after they began biological therapy. This progress was not only maintained but continued to improve over the six months following the start of the study, although the rate of improvement was less pronounced compared to the initial three months (Figure 1).

At the six-month follow-up for both subgroups of Group II, 81% of patients continued with anti-TNF- α therapy. About 8% of patients discontinued treatment due to physician-reported ineffectiveness, 9% due to adverse events, and 2% for reasons related to therapy. Patients in subgroups A and B of Group II reported lower functional status on the SF-36 at both the three-month and six-month marks; however, all patients noted improvements in functioning across all domains of the SF-36. The most significant improvements in physical and emotional roles were observed between the three-month and six-month evaluations, while the least improvement occurred in general health (Figures 2 and 3).

Three months after the start of treatment, 85% of patients in subgroup II a and 81% in subgroup II b had a DAS-28 score higher than 5.1, indicating high disease activity according to EULAR criteria. After 6 months of treatment, the DAS-28 score

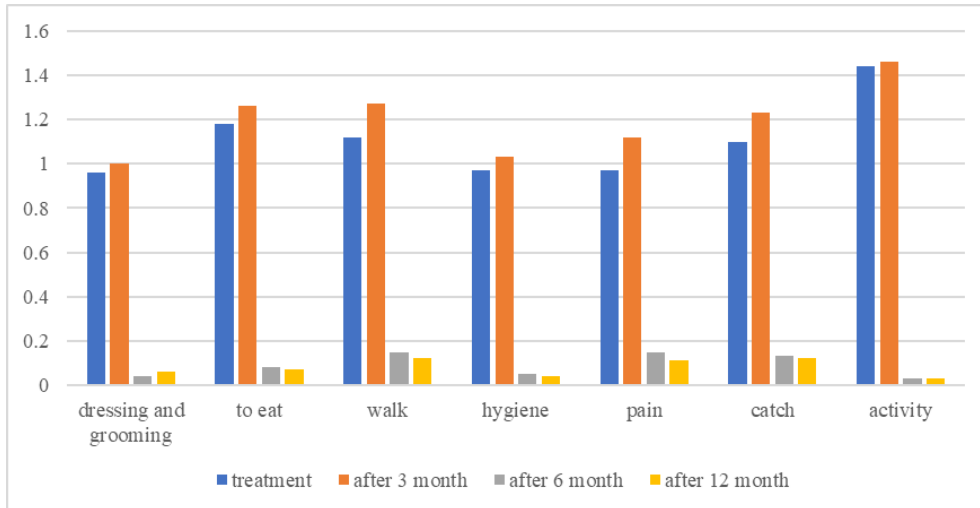


Figure 1. Patient self-care before and after treatment.

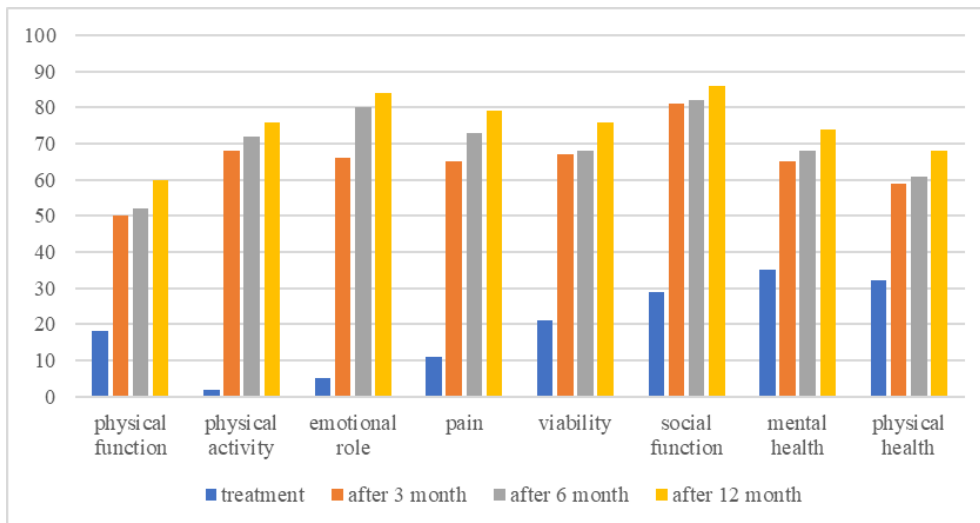


Figure 2. SF-36 functional status of IIa subgroup patients.

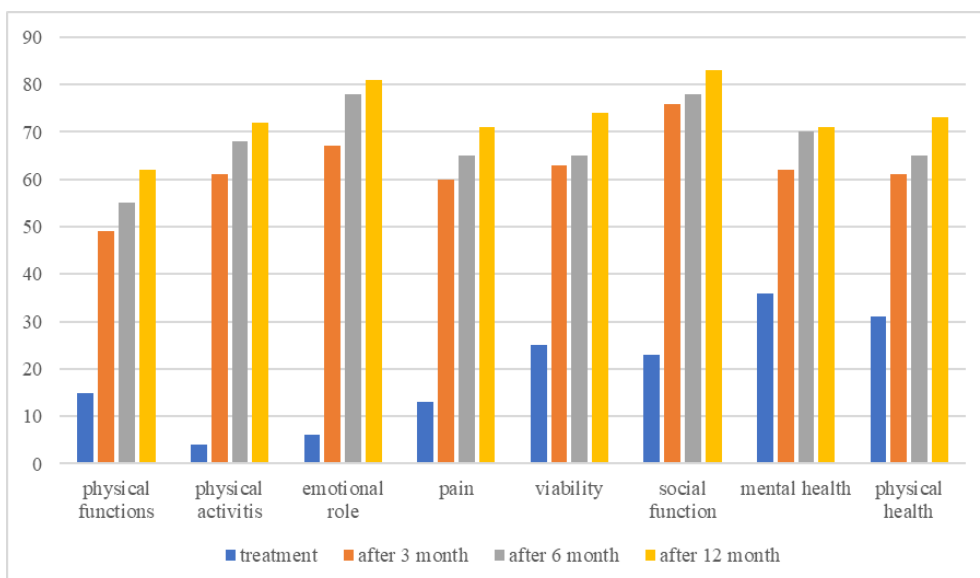


Figure 3. SF-36 functional status of IIb subgroup patients.

significantly decreased (by more than 1.2) in both subgroups. At this point, 31% of patients had a DAS-28 score below 3.2, which indicates low disease activity, and 15.4% had a score below 2.6, compatible with disease remission. Additionally, 54% of patients had scores indicating moderate disease activity (greater than 3.2 and less than or equal to 5.1). At the 12-month mark, the mean DAS-28 scores were as follows: the control group scored 2.6, infliximab scored 1.1, adalimumab scored 1.2, and rituximab scored 3.5 (see Table 2, Figure 4).

Table 2. Mean DAS28 score data for patients in all four groups.

Group	After 3 months	After 6 months	After 12 months
I group	5.1	3.6	2.6
II a group	3.2	2.6	1.1
II b group	3.6	2.8	1.2
III group	5	4.7	3.5

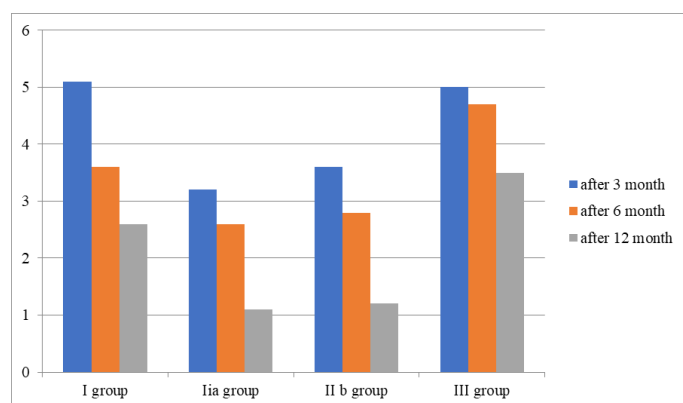


Figure 4. Mean DAS28 score data for patients in all four groups.

There were no significant differences in the DAS28 (disease activity score in 28 joints), HAQ-DI (Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index), EQ-5D, or SF-36 (36-Item Short Form Health Survey) data among the three biologic treatment groups, 3, 6, and 12 months after treatment, but these data were statistically significantly different from the data of the control group (Figures 5 and 6).

The percentage distribution of patients with remission phase and low disease activity, as well as good or moderate response criteria of the European League against Rheumatism, is given in the form of Tables and Figures (Tables 3,4 and Figures 7,8).

Table 3. Response to treatment with biological drugs after 6 months.

Response to treatment	Infliximab	adalimumab	Rituximab
good answer	31%	21%	18%
moderate response	55%	48%	58%

Table 4. Response to treatment with biological drugs after 12 months.

Response to treatment	Infliximab	adalimumab	Rituximab
good answer	32%	21%	38%
moderate response	72%	68%	71%

40% (28) of patients enrolled in the study had at least one adverse event at 1 year (9 in the control group, 6 in the rituximab group, and 7 in the infliximab and 6 in the adalimumab group). One study suspected unexpected serious adverse reaction

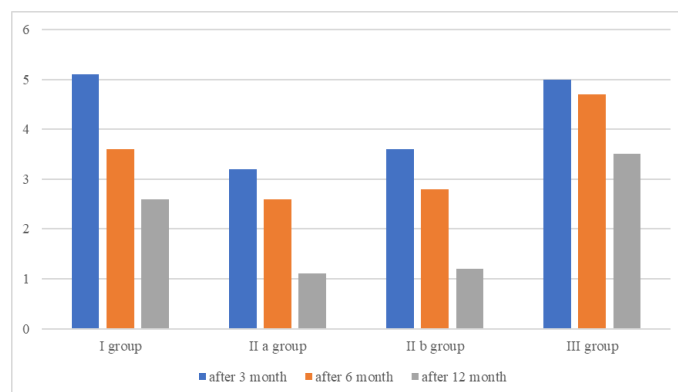


Figure 5. EQ-5D data for patients in all four groups.

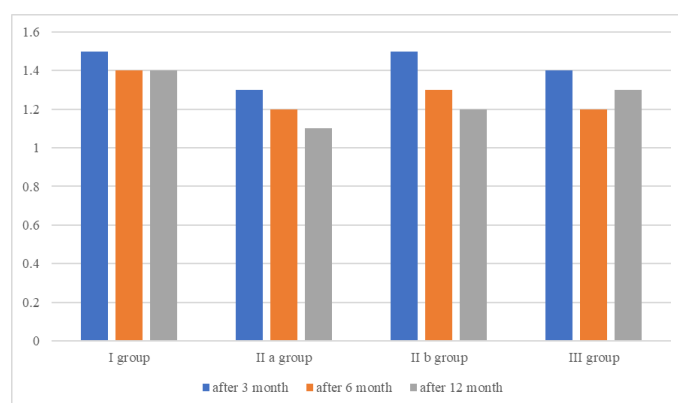


Figure 6. SF-36 data for patients in all four groups.

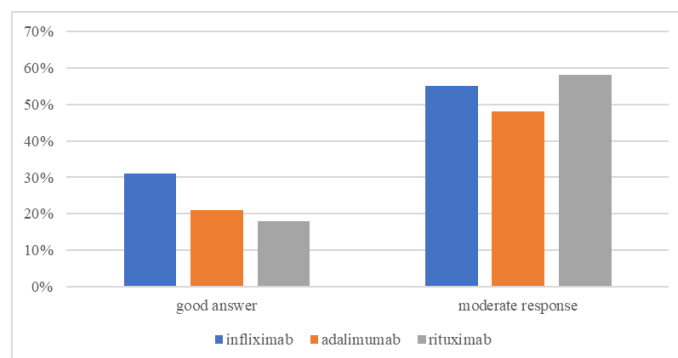


Figure 7. Response to treatment with biological drugs after 6 months.

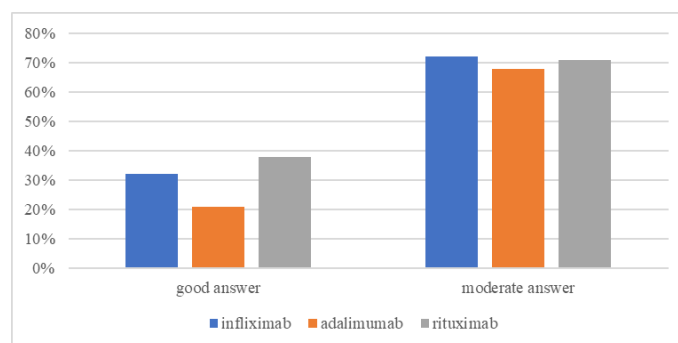


Figure 8. Response to treatment with biological drugs up to 12 months.

(SUSAR) occurred within 1 year. This patient, who was in the adalimumab group, became psychotic 4 months after the start of the study. However, in retrospect, these complaints were not related to the medication.

In our cost-effectiveness analysis, costs depended on the drug used, the dose delivered, the method of delivery, and the frequency of administration. 1-year mean QALYs, and drug-related costs (in EUR) are presented in Figure 9. The cost difference was significant between the adalimumab and rituximab groups (mean difference = €5,586, 95% CI = €3,681 to €7,491, $P < 0.001$) and between the infliximab and rituximab groups (mean difference = €3,758, 95% CI = €1,661 to €5,856, $P = 0.001$), but there was no significant difference between the infliximab and adalimumab groups (mean difference = €1,828, 95% CI = -€294 to €3,950, $P = 0.090$). Figures 9,10 shows the average quality-adjusted life years and drug-related costs over 1 year.

Mean direct medical costs for patients receiving infliximab, adalimumab, and rituximab were €13,000, €15,000, and €10,000, respectively, while direct nonmedical costs were €2,484.67, €2,099.47, and €556. In addition, the purchase costs of the primary drug were the highest direct medical costs for patients using all three drugs (infliximab: €7110.39, adalimumab: €8582.42, and rituximab: €9171.32). Indirect costs were also €186.53, €192.62 and €172.82. Thus, the cost of treatment with rituximab was the lowest (Figure 11).

In terms of QALYs, the highest utility scores for patients with rheumatoid arthritis obtained from the EQ-5D questionnaire were patients using infliximab who had DAS-(0.891). The obtained results indicate that treatment with infliximab or adalimumab was dominant over treatment with rituximab and was more cost-effective.

Discussion.

This study provides important clinical insights as it is a study that directly compares three different biologic treatment options for patients with rheumatoid arthritis who have failed standard therapy. All treatment options had a good safety profile and a short-term (1-year) incidence of adverse events similar to the adalimumab, rituximab, and infliximab treatment groups, but numbers were too small to perform valid statistical analysis. There was no significant difference between TNF- α and rituximab treatment in patients with concomitant severe infections and the development of malignancies.

A cost-effectiveness analysis of QALYs found that rituximab was the most effective treatment in patients with severe rheumatoid arthritis who had failed TNF- α inhibitor treatment. In our analysis, drug-related costs depended on drug price, dose, route of administration, and dosing frequency. These factors must be taken into account when trying to compare our cost-effectiveness data with that of other countries. Cost-effectiveness is more difficult to generalize; however, the main driver of costs is the cost per milligram of (biological) treatment.

According to the results of this study, infliximab was more cost-effective than adalimumab. Therefore, based on the results of the sensitivity analysis, as long as the study parameters do not change significantly, it is suggested that infliximab should be the

priority for the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Compared to the different TNF- α inhibitors (infliximab and adalimumab) used in our study, rituximab is the most effective treatment option for patients who have failed first-line TNF- α treatment. This advantage is primarily due to differences in drug costs; because efficacy and safety are the same, drug costs may drive decisions about biologic treatment.

Conclusion.

1. For patients suffering from moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis who do not respond positively to standard medical treatments and whose disease progression is steady, therapy with biological drugs can help put the disease into remission, reduce the risk of complications, and improve the overall prognosis.

2. The infliximab regimen has proven to be more cost-effective than adalimumab in terms of managing disease progression and overall treatment costs. Therefore, we recommend prioritizing infliximab as a second-line treatment for patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

3. The cost-effectiveness of adalimumab is not significantly different from that of other TNF- α inhibitors. Consequently, it should be considered as a second-line TNF- α inhibitor in the treatment regimen for rheumatoid arthritis.

4. In cases of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis where treatment with first-line TNF- α inhibitors has been unsuccessful, rituximab emerges as the best treatment option based on its effectiveness in improving disease progression and prognosis.

5. All three options for combined treatment with biological drugs—TNF- α inhibitors (infliximab and adalimumab) and CD20 monoclonal antibodies (rituximab)—were equally effective, as they all reduced disease progression and significantly improved prognosis.

6. For patients who do not respond positively to standard antirheumatic therapy, the earlier biological drugs are introduced, the more the progression of the disease and the level of disability will be reduced. This is directly correlated with the cost-effectiveness of the treatment.

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საქართველოში ბიოლოგიური პრეპარატებით რევმატოიდული ართრიტის მკურნალობის ხარჯთ-ეფექტურობა

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საკვანძო სიტყვები: რევმატოიდული ართრიტი, ბიოლოგიური პრეპარატები, ხარჯთ-სარგებლიანობა, ხარჯთ-ეფექტიანობა.

აღნიშნული კვლევის მიზანს წარმოადგენს რევმატოიდული ართრიტით დაავადებულ პაციენტებში ბიოლოგიური პრეპარატებით (ინფლიქსი-მაბი, ადალიმუმები, რიტუქსიმაბი) ჩატარებული მკურნალობის, როგორც მონოთერაპიის, ასევე კომბინირებული სამკურნალო სქემების, ხარჯთ-სარგებლიანობისა და ხარჯთ-ეფექტიანობის დადგენა. ასევე განვსაზღვროთ ის ფაქტორები, რომლებიც ზეგავლენას ახდენს ამ პროცესზე.

მასალა და მეთოდები: კვლევისთვის შეირჩა 60 პაციენტი, რომელთაც ჰქონდათ რევმატოიდული ართრიტის საშუალო და მძიმე ფორმა (DAS28>3.2). პაციენტები განაწილებული იქნა 3 ჯგუფში და 2 ქვეჯგუფში, იმის მიხედვით თუ რომელი ჯგუფის მედიკამენტს იღებდა.

კვლევა მიმდინარეობდა 12 თვის განმავლობაში. მკურნალობამდე და მკურნალობის შემდეგ ჯანმრთელობის მდგომარეობის შეფასება ხდებოდა საბაზისო კითხვარებით (HAQ). ხარჯ-სარგებლიანობის განსაზღვრა ჯანმრთელობის მდგომარეობის

ხუთგანზომილებიანი კლასიფიკაციის მედთოდოლოგიიდან EQ-5D-ს და მრავალჯერადი რეგრესიით დაკავშირებული HAQ-ს მაჩვენებლების სისტემის და დაავადებების აქტივობის გამოყენებით. პაციენტების შეფასება ხდებოდა ასევე ზოგადი SF-36 ჯანმრთელობის მდგომარეობის კითხვარით.

კვლევის შედეგების განხილვა: აღნიშნული კვლევა იძლევა მნიშვნელოვან კლინიკურ შეხედულებებს, რადგან ეს არის კვლევა, რომელიც პირდაპირ ადარებს სამი განსხვავებულ ბიოლოგიურ პრეპარატებით მკურნალობის ვარიანტს რევმატოიდული ართრიტის მქონე პაციენტებისთვის, რომელთათვისაც სტანდარტული თერაპია წარუმატებელი აღმოჩნდა. მკურნალობის ყველა ვარიანტს ჰქონდა უსაფრთხოების კარგი პროფილი. QALY-ები ხარჯების ეფექტურობის გაანალიზებით დადგინდა, რომ რიტუქსიმაბი იყო ყველაზე ეფექტური მკურნალობის სახე რევმატოიდული ართრიტის მძიმე ფორმით დაავადებულ პაციენტებში, რომლებზეც TNF- α -ს ინჰიბიტორებით მკურნალობა წარუმატებელი აღმოჩნდა. ჩვენს ანალიზში, მედიკამენტებთან დაკავშირებული ხარჯები დამოკიდებული იყო მედიკამენტის ფასზე, დოზაზე, მიწოდების გზასა და დოზირების სიხშირეზე.

დასკვნები: ამ კვლევის შედეგების მიხედვით, ინფლიქსიმაბი უფრო ეკონომიური იყო, ვიდრე ადალიმუმები. ამიტომ, სენსიტიურობის ანალიზის შედეგებზე დაყრდნობით, სანამ საკვლევი პარამეტრები მნიშვნელოვნად არ შეიცვლება, ვარაუდობენ, რომ ინფლიქსიმაბი პრიორიტეტული უნდა იყოს რევმატოიდული ართრიტით დაავადებულთა სამკურნალოდ. ხოლო რიტუქსიმაბი არის ყველაზე ეფექტური მკურნალობის ვარიანტი პაციენტებისთვის, რომელთა შემთხვევაში, TNF- α მკურნალობა წარუმატებელი აღმოჩნდა. ეს უპირატესობა პირველ რიგში განპირობებულია მედიკამენტების ხარჯების განსხვავებებით; იმის გამო, რომ ეფექტურობა და უსაფრთხოება ერთნაირია, მედიკამენტების ხარჯებმა შეიძლება გამოიწვიოს გადაწყვეტილების მიღება ბიოლოგიური მკურნალობის შესახებ.