

## ANTIRHEUMATIC DRUGS

Compiled by Dr. Joel Kremer  
(Updated Nov. 1999)

1. Weinblatt ME, Kremer JM, Coblyn JS, Maier AL, Helfgott SM, Morell M, Byrne VM, Kaymakcian MV, Stand V. Efficacy, Safety, and pharmacokinetics of the combination of methotrexate and leflunomide in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, 42: 1322-1328, 1999.

*An open study of the combination of Leflunomide with Methotrexate. The only existing publication documenting the utility of this combination with description of effects on transaminase enzymes.*

2. Pincus T, O'Dell JR, Kremer JM. Combination therapy with multiple disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs in rheumatoid arthritis: a preventive strategy. *Annals Int Med* (In-press), 1999

*(To be published 11/15/99) A description of why and where the treatment paradigm has shifted for the treatment of RA. Good reading for the uninitiated or unconvinced.*

3. Maini RN, Breedveld FAC, Kalden JR, et al. Therapeutic efficacy of multiple intravenous infusions of anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody combined with low-dose weekly methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rehum*. 41: 1552-1563, 1998

*Use of infliximab with methotrexate. An important paper which has raised many questions which will be debated for years.*

4. Kremer JM, Alarcon GS, Weinblatt ME, Kaymakcian MV, Macaluso M, Cannon GW, Palmer WR, Sundy JS, St. Clair EW, Alexander RW, Smith GJW, Axiotis CA. Clinical, laboratory, radiographic and histopathologic features of methotrexate lung injury in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: A multi-center study with literature review. *Arthritis Rheum*, 40: 1829-1837, 1997

*A concise summary of the clinical and radiographic features of methotrexate lung disease from a case control cohort and a complete review of the published literature. A must read for those who use methotrexate.*

5. Alarcon GS, Kremer JM, Macaluso M, Weinblatt ME, Cannon GW, Palmer WR, St. Clair EW, Sundy JS, Alexander RW, Smith GJW. Risk factors associated with lung injury in methotrexate-treated rheumatoid arthritis patients: A multicenter, case-control study, *Ann Int Med* 127: 356-364, 1997

*A case control study identifying risk factors for the development of methotrexate lung disease.*

6. Weinblatt ME, Kremer JM, Bankhurst AD, Bulpitt KJ, Fleischmna RM, Fox RI, Jackson CG, Lange M, Burge DJ. Treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis with methotrexate plus a recombinant human tumor necrosis factor receptor (p75)-Fc-fusion protein (etanercept): a phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled trial. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 340: 253-259, 1999

*The first double-blind controlled study of the combination of a biologic agent with methotrexate for the treatment of RA.*

7. Van der Heide A, Jacobs JW, Bijlsma JW, et al. The effectiveness of early treatment with “second-line” antirheumatic drugs: A randomized controlled trial. *Ann Int Med* 124: 699-707, 1996

*The importance of early therapy in the treatment of RA.*

8. Moreland LW, Baumgartner SW, Schiff MH, et al. Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis with a recombinant human tumor necrosis factor receptor (p75)-Fc fusion protein. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 337: 141-147, 1997

*The first study of a biologic agent to treat patients with RA*