



# AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY

EDUCATION • TREATMENT • RESEARCH

## American College Of Rheumatology Updated Guideline for the Management of Gout

*Project Plan – October 2018*

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*(still being finalized)*

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**ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT**

This updated clinical practice guideline is being developed by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) with funding by the ACR.

**BACKGROUND**

Gout is the most common inflammatory arthritis, affecting 4% of adults in the United States. While the pathophysiology is well-understood and effective treatments are available, the management of gout remains poor, with 70% experiencing recurrent flares, and a substantial proportion burdened by tophi, joint damage, and functional limitations.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this project is to develop recommendations for the management of patients with gout. Specifically, we aim to develop recommendations for:

1. Indications for urate-lowering therapy.
2. Approaches to initiating urate-lowering therapy.
3. Ongoing management of urate-lowering therapy.
4. Management of gout flares.
5. Lifestyle factors in patients with gout.
6. Asymptomatic hyperuricemia.

Additionally, we will develop recommendations for each of the categories above for specific subgroups of patients as appropriate.

**METHODS**

*Identification of Studies*

Literature search strategies, based on PICO questions (Population/patients, Intervention, Comparator, and Outcomes; *see Appendix A*) will be developed by the research librarian, systematic literature review leader, and principal investigators, with input from the Core Team. The search strategies will be peer reviewed by another medical librarian using Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies (PRESS) (1).



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37 Searches will be performed in OVID Medline (1946 +), Embase (1974 +), the Cochrane Library, and  
38 PubMed (mid-1960s +).

39  
40 The search strategies will be developed using the controlled vocabulary or thesauri language for each  
41 database: Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) for OVID Medline, PubMed and Cochrane Library; and  
42 Emtree terms for Embase. Text words will also be used in OVID Medline, PubMed, and Embase, and  
43 keyword/title/abstract words in the Cochrane Library.

44

45 *Search Limits*

46

47 Only English language articles will be retrieved.

48

49 *Grey Literature*

50

51 The websites of appropriate agencies, such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ),  
52 will be searched for peer-reviewed reports not indexed by electronic databases.

53

54 *Literature Search Update*

55

56 Literature searches will be updated one month prior to the voting panel meeting to ensure  
57 completeness.

58

59 *Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria*

60

61 See PICO questions (*Appendix A*), which outline the defined patient population, interventions,  
62 comparators and outcomes.

63

64 *Management of Studies and Data*

65

66 References and abstracts will be imported into bibliographic management software (Reference  
67 Manager) (2), duplicates removed, and exported to Distiller SR, a web-based systematic review manager  
68 (3). Screening forms will be created in Distiller SR. Search results will be divided among reviewers, and  
69 two reviewers will screen each title/abstract, with disagreements at the title/abstract screening stage  
70 defaulting to inclusion for full manuscript review. Following the same dual review process,  
71 disagreements at the full manuscript screening stage will be discussed and adjudicated by the literature  
72 review leadership, if necessary.

73



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75 *Phases*

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77 1. A search for randomized controlled trials and observational studies about interventions aimed  
78 at the management of gout will be performed to determine existing studies covering outcomes  
79 of interest.

80 2. Additionally, recently published systematic reviews covering outcomes of interest will also be  
81 sought and used for reference cross-checking.

82 3. Data will be abstracted and evidence will be synthesized using RevMan (4) and GRADE Pro  
83 software (5), respectively.

84 4. Chosen studies will be assessed for risk of bias using modified versions of the Cochrane Risk of  
85 Bias tool (6) and the ROBINS-I (7).

86 5. The evidence will be synthesized and assessed at the outcome level within each question using  
87 the GRADE approach.

88

89 *GRADE Methodology*

90

91 GRADE methodology (8) will be used in this project to rate the certainty of evidence and facilitate  
92 development of recommendations. The certainty in the evidence (also known as “quality” of evidence)  
93 will be graded as high, moderate, low or very low. The strength of recommendations will be graded as  
94 strong or conditional. The strength of recommendations will not depend solely on the certainty in the  
95 evidence, but also on patient preferences and values, the balance between benefits and harms, and  
96 other important considerations when necessary (e.g., resources, feasibility, acceptability). A series of  
97 articles that describe the GRADE methodology can be found on the GRADE working group’s website:  
98 [www.gradeworkinggroup.org](http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org).

99

100 *Analysis and Synthesis*

101

102 The literature review team will appraise and synthesize data from included studies that address the  
103 PICO questions. Meta-analysis will be conducted to pool results across studies whenever possible. When  
104 not possible, a narrative synthesis of the results will be presented. An evidence summary, which  
105 includes the estimates of effects comparing the options and details regarding the assessment of the  
106 certainty of the evidence, will be prepared for each PICO question using GRADEprofiler (GRADEpro)  
107 software (5). The evidence summary will contain all of the outcomes (benefits and harms) considered  
108 important for formulating recommendations summarized across studies. For each outcome, the  
109 summary will present the relative effects comparing the options under consideration, the assumed and  
110 corresponding risk for comparators and interventions (95% CI), the risk difference, the number of



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111 participants/number of studies providing evidence for that outcome, and the certainty of the evidence  
112 (i.e., high, moderate, low or very low).

113  
114 The evidence summary will also document the overall certainty in the evidence for each critical and  
115 important outcome across studies and summarize the rationale of the GRADE criteria for rating down  
116 (risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision and publication bias), or rating up the certainty in a  
117 body of evidence (large magnitude of effect, dose-response gradient, and all plausible confounding that  
118 would reduce a demonstrated effect).

119  
120 *Development of Recommendation Statements*

121  
122 PICO questions will be revised to formulate recommendation statements. Using the evidence  
123 summaries, the voting panel, consisting of nine rheumatologists, one nephrologist, one physician  
124 assistant, one health services researcher, and two patient representatives (one still to be determined),  
125 will consider the drafted recommendation statements in two stages. The voting panel will first  
126 individually evaluate and vote on each drafted recommendation statement using the evidence  
127 summary. The initial votes are anonymous and used to determine where consensus (70% or greater  
128 agreement) exists on the drafted recommendation statements. The results of round 1 voting will  
129 determine the in person voting panel meeting agenda. At the face-to-face voting panel meeting, chaired  
130 by the co-principal investigators, the panelists will review results of all PICO round 1 votes, discuss the  
131 evidence in the context of their clinical experience and expertise to reach consensus on the final  
132 recommendations. The voting panel meeting discussions will be supported by the literature review  
133 leader, the GRADE expert, and selected members of the literature review team, who will attend the  
134 meeting to provide details about the evidence, as requested. Voting panel discussions and decisions will  
135 be informed by a separately convened patient panel, which will meet in the days before the voting panel  
136 meeting, to provide unique patient perspectives on the drafted recommendations based on their  
137 experiences and the available literature; the two patients on the voting panel will participate in the  
138 separate patient panel meeting.

139  
140 **PLANNED APPENDICES (AT MINIMUM)**

- 141  
142 A. Final literature search strategies  
143 B. Evidence summaries, including GRADE evidence profiles, for each PICO question

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148 **AUTHORSHIP**

149  
150 Authorship of the guideline will include: co-principal investigators, Drs. John FitzGerald and Tuhina  
151 Neogi, as the lead authors and voting panel leaders; Dr. Romina Brignardello-Petersen, literature review  
152 leader; Drs. Ted Mikuls and Nicola Dalbeth, content experts; and Dr. Gordon Guyatt, GRADE expert.  
153 Members of the literature review team and voting panel will also be authors. The co-PIs will determine  
154 final authorship and order of authors, dependent on the efforts made by individuals throughout the  
155 guideline development process, using international authorship standards as guidance.

156  
157 **DISCLOSURES/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

158  
159 The ACR's disclosure and COI policies for guideline development will be followed for this project. These  
160 can be found in the ACR Guideline Manual on [this page of the ACR web site](#), under Policies &  
161 Procedures. *See Appendix B for participant disclosures.*

162  
163 **REFERENCES**

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180 **APPENDIX A – PICO Questions**

181 ***Best Practice Statements***

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- Unless otherwise stated, prescribers should adhere to regulatory and labelling guidance.
  - Patients starting any therapy for gout should be educated on the role of each therapy (e.g. anti-inflammatory for symptoms relief, urate lowering with purpose of reducing risk of gout attack or tophus burden), and for those starting ULT, the need for continuous use.
  - Pertinent comorbidities (e.g., cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, renal insufficiency, nephrolithiasis) should be assessed in all patients with gout with appropriate management of the condition(s).

190 ***Definitions***

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- ACTH: adrenocorticotropic hormone
  - Anti-IL1 therapy: anakinra, canakinumab, rilonacept
  - Anti-inflammatory treatments for flare or prophylaxis: colchicine, NSAIDs, glucocorticoids (oral, parenteral or intra-articular), anti-IL-1 therapy
  - Asymptomatic Hyperuricemia: individual with serum urate  $\geq 6.8$ mg/dL with no prior gout flares or subcutaneous tophi or imaging
  - Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 3, Glomerular Filtration Rate  $< 60$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
  - Clinical remission: no gout flares in the last 12 months AND no subcutaneous tophi
  - Flare Frequency:
    - Infrequent gout flares ( $< 2$  per year) vs.
    - Frequent gout flares ( $\geq 2$  per year)
  - Medications that impact serum urate levels:
    - Increase serum urate: hydrochlorothiazide, furosemide, low-dose ASA ( $\leq 325$ mg/d)
    - Decrease serum urate: losartan, fenofibrate
  - Suboptimal Flare Treatment Response: Failure to achieve low pain score (e.g.  $\leq 2$  using a VAS scale of 0 to 10) OR failure to return to baseline pain score
  - ULT (urate-lowering therapy): allopurinol, febuxostat, probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase
    - Low dose ULT: Allopurinol  $\leq 150$  mg/day, Febuxostat  $\leq 40$  mg/day, Probenecid  $\leq 250$  mg twice daily
    - Intensive ULT: pegloticase **OR** serum urate target  $< 3$  mg/dL
  - Subcutaneous tophus – A tophus that is detectable by physical examination.
  - Imaging evidence of MSU crystal deposition - Findings that are highly suggestive of monosodium urate crystals on an imaging test (regardless if clinically palpable)
  - Durability of ULT: Duration of ULT adherence. Lack of ULT abandonment.





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216 **Indications for urate-lowering therapy**

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218 1. For patients with one or more subcutaneous tophi (with any number of gout flares), what is the  
219 impact of starting ULT compared with no ULT on gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global  
220 assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in  
221 gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate  
222 and serious)?

223 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
224 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?

225 • Does this differ in patients with radiographic damage vs. those without radiographic  
226 damage?

227 • Do the effects differ in patients with tophi on advanced imaging (ultrasound, MRI, CT, or  
228 dual energy CT) but no subcutaneous tophi vs those with subcutaneous tophi?

229 • People with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or 2)?

230 2. For patients with radiographic damage (any modality) due to gout, but no subcutaneous tophi on  
231 exam (with any number of gout flares), what is the impact of starting ULT compared with no ULT on  
232 gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
233 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
234 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

235 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
236 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?

237 • People with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or 2)?

238 3. For patients without subcutaneous tophi and with frequent gout flares (two or more gout  
239 flares/year), what is the impact of starting ULT compared with no ULT on gout flares, pain scores,  
240 tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage,  
241 serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse  
242 events (mild-moderate and serious)?

243 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
244 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?

245 • People with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or 2)?

246 4. For patients without tophi who have previously experienced more than one flare but have had a low  
247 frequency < 2/year of flares, what is the impact of starting ULT compared with no ULT on gout  
248 flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
249 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
250 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?





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- 251 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
252 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?
- 253 • Do these effects differ in the following subgroups?
- 254 ○ People with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or 2)?
- 255 ○ People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?
- 256 ○ People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?
- 257 ○ People with hypertension versus no hypertension?
- 258 ○ People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU ≤9mg/dL?
- 259 ○ People with early onset disease (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those with  
260 later onset?
- 261 ○ People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?
- 262 5. For patients without tophi and who have experienced a single gout flare, what is the impact of  
263 starting ULT compared with no ULT on gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment,  
264 health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or  
265 tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 266 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
267 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?
- 268 • Do these effects differ in the following subgroups?
- 269 ○ People with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or 2)?
- 270 ○ People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?
- 271 ○ People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?
- 272 ○ People with hypertension versus no hypertension?
- 273 ○ People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU ≤9mg/dL?
- 274 ○ People with early onset disease (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those with  
275 later onset?
- 276 ○ People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?
- 277

**Approaches to Initiating urate lowering therapy (ULT)**

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- 280 6. For patients diagnosed with gout starting any ULT, what is the impact of starting ULT during a gout  
281 flare compared with starting ULT after the gout flare has resolved on: current gout flare severity,  
282 current gout flare duration, subsequent gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment,  
283 serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse  
284 events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 285 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
286 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?



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- 287 7. For patients diagnosed with gout starting any ULT, what is the impact of starting a low dose of the  
288 ULT agent (e.g., allopurinol  $\leq 150$ mg, febuxostat  $\leq 40$ mg, probenecid 250mg bid) with gradual dose  
289 escalation compared with starting the ULT at a higher dose (e.g., allopurinol 300mg, febuxostat  
290 80mg, probenecid 1g bid) on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health  
291 related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus  
292 as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient  
293 adherence, durability of ULT?
- 294 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
295 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?
- 296 8. For patients diagnosed with gout prescribed any ULT (allopurinol, febuxostat, probenecid, lesinurad,  
297 pegloticase), what is the impact of a non-physician health care professional-augmented (e.g.  
298 nursing or pharmacy) package of care compared with usual care on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus,  
299 patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum  
300 urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events  
301 (mild-moderate and serious) patient adherence, durability of ULT?
- 302 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
303 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?
- 304 9. For patients diagnosed with gout starting any ULT (allopurinol, febuxostat, probenecid, lesinurad,  
305 pegloticase), what is the relative impact of concomitant anti-inflammatory prophylaxis therapy  
306 (colchicine, NSAIDs, prednisone/prednisolone, canakinumab, rilonacept, anakinra) compared with  
307 no anti-inflammatory prophylaxis on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment,  
308 health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or  
309 tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)  
310 patient adherence, durability of ULT?
- 311 • Does the impact differ if the anti-inflammatory prophylaxis is continued for only three  
312 months, if continued for six months, or if continued until complete resolution of tophi and  
313 gout flares?
  - 314 • Does the relative impact differ across different ULT medications (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
315 probenecid, lesinurad, pegloticase)?
  - 316 • Does the relative impact of prophylaxis differ across different starting dosage levels of ULT  
317 (e.g., allopurinol  $\leq 150$ mg, febuxostat  $\leq 40$ mg, probenecid 250mg bid) with gradual dose  
318 escalation compared with starting the ULT at a higher dose (e.g., allopurinol 300mg,  
319 febuxostat 80mg, probenecid 1g bid)?
- 320 10. For patients diagnosed with gout starting ULT, what is the relative impact of starting allopurinol,  
321 febuxostat, probenecid, allopurinol/lesinurad 200mg combination, febuxostat/lesinurad 200mg  
322 combination, or pegloticase on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health



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323 related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus  
324 as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

325 • Do the effects differ in people in people with or without established cardiovascular disease,  
326 or in people in people with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or 2)?

327 11. For patients diagnosed with gout receiving haemodialysis who are starting ULT, what is the impact  
328 of starting allopurinol compared with febuxostat on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global  
329 assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in  
330 gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate  
331 and serious)?

332 12. For patients diagnosed with gout starting allopurinol, what is the impact of testing HLA-B\*5801 and  
333 avoiding allopurinol if positive result compared with not testing HLA-B\*5801 and starting allopurinol  
334 in all patients on: cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

335 • Do the effects differ in people of African American ancestry versus people with Chinese,  
336 Thai, or Korean ancestry versus those with all other ancestries?

337 • Do the effects differ in people with CKD 3 or worse versus normal or mild CKD stages (1 or  
338 2)?

339 • Do the effects differ in people starting a low allopurinol dose (e.g. ≤100mg) with gradual  
340 dose escalation vs. starting allopurinol at a higher dose (eg, 300mg)?

341

342 **Ongoing Management of Urate-Lowering Therapy in patients with gout**

343

344 **Definitions: Conceptual detail for ULT dosing for PICO 13**

345 ULT dosing is either a

346 – *Pre-specified ULT fixed dose* based on drug, dose and renal function: E.g. allopurinol 300  
347 mg, febuxostat 40 mg, probenecid 500 mg twice daily or allopurinol 200 mg (or lower),  
348 febuxostat 40 mg in patients with CKD > 3 **OR**

349 – *Serum urate target specified ULT dose* where ULT dosing is guided by serial serum urate  
350 values measured after each change in dose

351

352 13. For patients with gout on ULT, what is the relative impact of ULT dose titration and subsequent  
353 management guided by serial serum urate values compared with fixed, standard doses of ULT on:  
354 gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
355 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
356 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient adherence, durability of  
357 ULT?



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- 358           • Does the impact of dosing strategy differ by presence vs absence of comorbid disease (e.g.  
359           CKD 3 or worse or cardiovascular disease), frequency of gout flares, presence of  
360           subcutaneous tophi?  
361           • Specifically, could serum urate target dosing exceeding Hande dosing recommendations?  
362           • Does the impact differ by frequency of monitoring?
- 363 14. For patients with gout on ULT who are not in *clinical remission*, what is the relative impact of  
364           prescribing ULT to achieve a serum urate target of [INSERT VALUE] on: gout flares, pain scores,  
365           tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage,  
366           serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse  
367           events (mild-moderate and serious), patient adherence, durability of ULT?  
368           < 6 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$  6mg/dL, OR  
369           < 5 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$ 5mg/dL OR  
370           < 4 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$ 4mg/dL OR  
371           < 3 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$ 3mg/dL?  
372
- 373           • Does the impact differ by flare frequency, presence of subcutaneous tophi? (See below for  
374           patients in *clinical remission*.)  
375           • Does the impact differ by frequency of monitoring?
- 376 15. For patients with gout on ULT who are in *clinical remission*, what is the relative impact of prescribing  
377           ULT to achieve a serum urate target of [INSERT VALUE] on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient  
378           global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate,  
379           changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-  
380           moderate and serious), patient adherence, durability of ULT?  
381           < 8 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$  8mg/dL, OR  
382           < 7 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$  7mg/dL, OR  
383           < 6.8 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$  6.8mg/dL, OR  
384           < 6 mg/dL vs.  $\geq$  6mg/dL?  
385
- 386           • Does the impact differ by duration of clinical remission (e.g., 1-year vs. 5-years)?  
387           • Does the impact differ by frequency of monitoring?
- 388 16. For patients with gout on *ULT > 2 years*, what is the impact of checking serum urate on a regular  
389           schedule and making adjustments in ULT guided by serum urate concentration compared with not  
390           checking serum urate to guide future ULT use / dosing on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient  
391           global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate,  
392           changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-  
393           moderate and serious), patient adherence, and durability of ULT?



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- 394           • Does the impact of checking vs. not checking differ by:
- 395                 • Frequency of monitoring (e.g., every 6 months vs. every 12 months)
- 396                 • Disease severity: presence or duration of clinical remission, flare frequency,
- 397                     presence of subcutaneous tophi
- 398 17. For patients with gout on ULT who have achieved serum urate target but still have sufficient
- 399     inflammatory symptoms to warrant ULT re-evaluation (e.g.,  $\geq 2$  flares in the last 12-months), what is
- 400     the impact of lowering serum urate target by an additional 1 mg/dL and dose escalating ULT to this
- 401     target compared with not changing the serum urate target and making no change to ULT on: gout
- 402     flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity
- 403     limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in
- 404     serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 405 18. For patients with gout adherent to ULT who have not achieved serum urate target, but have
- 406     *infrequent symptoms* (gout flares well controlled ( $\leq 1$  flare in last 6 months)) and no subcutaneous
- 407     tophi, what is the impact of increasing ULT dose to achieve serum urate target compared with
- 408     continuing current ULT dose on gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health
- 409     related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus
- 410     as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 411           • Does this impact differ if patient is in 1-year or 5-year *clinical remission*?
- 412 19. For patients with gout on ULT in *clinical remission*, what is the impact of stopping or reducing ULT
- 413     compared with continuing ULT on gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health
- 414     related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus
- 415     as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 416           • Do these effects differ based on the sustainable serum urate level following ULT reduction
- 417                 or cessation off ULT or the duration of clinical remission (e.g. 1-year vs. 5-years)?
- 418 20. For patients with gout on ULT in clinical remission, what is the impact of relaxing the serum urate
- 419     target compared with continuing current serum urate target on gout flares, pain scores, tophus,
- 420     patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum
- 421     urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events
- 422     (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 423           • Do these effects differ based on the duration of clinical remission (e.g. 1-year vs. 5-years)?
- 424 21. For patients with gout on *intensive ULT* management (e.g. ULT to achieve sUA  $< 3$  mg/dL), what is
- 425     the impact of the duration of intensive ULT therapy for [INSERT VALUE] on gout flares, tophus
- 426     burden, neurotoxicity and cancer risk, mortality rates?
- 427
- 428           < 1 year vs.  $\geq 1$  year OR
- 429           < 2 years vs.  $\geq 2$  years
- 430



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- 431 22. For patients with gout on febuxostat with a history of CVD or a new CV event, what is the impact of  
432 stopping and switching to an alternative ULT agent compared with continuing febuxostat after  
433 reviewing the risks and benefits of febuxostat with the patient on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus,  
434 patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum  
435 urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events  
436 (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 437 23. In patients with gout who have experienced an allergic response to allopurinol and who cannot be  
438 treated with other oral ULT, what is the impact of allopurinol desensitization on tolerability of  
439 allopurinol, adverse events, cost, and patient acceptability.
- 440
- 441 *For patients not at serum urate target and the inflammatory symptoms of gout or tophi are poorly*  
442 *controlled:*
- 443
- 444 24. For patients with gout on their first XO1 monotherapy at maximum tolerated or FDA indicated dose  
445 who are not at serum urate target and/or have continued frequent gout flares or non-resolving  
446 subcutaneous tophi, what is the impact of switching the first XO1 to an alternate XO1 agent  
447 compared with adding a uricosuric agent on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global  
448 assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in  
449 gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate  
450 and serious)?
- 451 • Do these effects differ based on the presence of chronic kidney disease or the magnitude of  
452 hyperuricemia?
- 453 25. For patients with gout on second (maximum tolerated or FDA indicated dose) XO1 agent who are not  
454 at serum urate target and/or have continued frequent gout flares or non-resolving subcutaneous  
455 tophi, what is the impact of adding a uricosuric compared with switching to uricosuric monotherapy  
456 on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
457 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
458 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 459 • Do these effects differ based on the presence of chronic kidney disease or the magnitude of  
460 hyperuricemia or 24 hour urate excretion?
- 461 26. For patients with gout on (max) probenecid monotherapy (e.g. XO1 failure) who are not at serum  
462 urate target and/or have continued frequent flares or non-resolving subcutaneous tophi, what is the  
463 impact of adding XO1 compared with switching to lesinurad/XO1 on gout flares, pain scores, tophus,  
464 patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum  
465 urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events  
466 (mild-moderate and serious)?





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- 467           • Do these effects differ based on the presence of chronic kidney disease or the magnitude of  
468           hyperuricemia?  
469 27. For patients with gout where XOI, uricosurics and other interventions failed to achieve serum urate  
470           target and have frequent gout flares or non-resolving subcutaneous tophi what is the impact of  
471           changing to pegloticase compared with continuing current ULT on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus,  
472           patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum  
473           urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events  
474           (mild-moderate and serious)?  
475           • Does the impact differ by frequency or severity of symptoms or presence or severity of tophi  
476           affect recommendation?  
477

478 *For patients considered for or on uricosuric treatment:*  
479

- 480 28. Prior to starting any uricosuric treatment, what is the impact of checking urinary uric acid compared  
481           with not checking urinary uric acid on: nephrolithiasis?  
482           • Does this recommendation differ for patients where uricosuric is to be added to XOI  
483           treatment compared with those who will receive uricosuric treatment alone?  
484 29. For all patients on uricosuric treatment, what is the impact of alkalinizing urine compared with not  
485           doing so on: nephrolithiasis?  
486           • Does this recommendation differ for patients where uricosuric is to be added to XOI  
487           treatment compared with those who will receive uricosuric treatment alone?  
488 30. For all patients on uricosuric treatment, what is the impact of monitoring urinary uric acid at regular  
489           intervals while on therapy compared with not doing so on: nephrolithiasis?  
490           • Does this recommendation differ for patients where uricosuric is to be added to XOI  
491           treatment compared with those who will receive uricosuric treatment alone?  
492  
493

494 **Gout Flares**  
495

496 ***General Management of a Gout Flare***  
497

- 498 31. For patients experiencing a gout flare initiating anti-inflammatory treatment, what is the impact of  
499           using topical ice as an adjuvant treatment compared with no adjuvant treatment on: pain scores,  
500           patient global assessment, joint tenderness, activity limitation, adverse events (mild-moderate and  
501           serious)?  
502 32. For patients experiencing a gout flare, what is the relative impact of colchicine, NSAIDs, systemic  
503           glucocorticoids (e.g. prednisone/prednisolone), intra-articular glucocorticoids, ACTH, or IL-1





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504 inhibition on: pain scores, patient global assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling, activity  
505 limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

- 506 • Does the relative impact of these agents differ based on any of the following?
  - 507 ○ The number of joints involved
  - 508 ○ Pain levels
  - 509 ○ Duration of the flare at presentation
  - 510 ○ Duration of anti-inflammatory therapy
  - 511 ○ Ability to tolerate or take oral agents (e.g. NPO status)
  - 512 ○ Dose of the agent given

513 33. For patients experiencing a gout flare for whom anti-inflammatory therapies are poorly tolerated or  
514 contraindicated, what is the impact of IL-1 inhibition compared with no therapy (beyond supportive  
515 / analgesic treatment) on: pain scores, patient global assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling,  
516 activity limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

517

518 ***Management in Patients with Suboptimal Treatment Responses after 36-48 hours***

519

520 34. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response after 36-48  
521 hours, what is the impact of switching to an alternative anti-inflammatory monotherapy compared  
522 with continuing the same treatment on: pain scores, patient global assessment, joint tenderness,  
523 joint swelling, activity limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

524 35. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response after 36-48  
525 hours, what is the impact of adding an additional anti-inflammatory agent (e.g. escalating to  
526 combination therapy) compared with continuing the same treatment on pain scores, patient global  
527 assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling, activity limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-  
528 moderate and serious)?

529 36. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response after 36-48  
530 hours, what is the impact of switching to an alternative anti-inflammatory monotherapy compared  
531 with adding an additional anti-inflammatory agent (e.g. escalating to combination therapy) on: pain  
532 scores, patient global assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling, activity limitation, cost, or  
533 adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

534 37. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response after 36-48  
535 hours, what is the impact of switching to an alternative anti-inflammatory agent compared with  
536 switching to or adding IL-1 inhibition on: pain scores, patient global assessment, joint tenderness,  
537 joint swelling, activity limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?

538 38. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response after 36-48  
539 hours, what is the impact of adding an additional anti-inflammatory agent (e.g. escalating to  
540 combination therapy) compared with switching to or adding IL-1 inhibition on: pain scores, patient



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- 541 global assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling, activity limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-  
542 moderate and serious)?
- 543 39. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response to an oral  
544 anti-inflammatory after 36-48 hours, what is the impact of switching to an alternative oral anti-  
545 inflammatory agent compared with the use of intra-articular glucocorticoids on: pain scores, patient  
546 global assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling, activity limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-  
547 moderate and serious)?
- 548 • Does the relative impact of these strategies differ by the number of joints involved (e.g.  
549 mono- or oligoarticular involvement vs. polyarticular involvement)?
- 550 40. For patients experiencing a gout flare and achieving a suboptimal treatment response to an oral  
551 anti-inflammatory after 36-48 hours, what is the impact of adding an additional anti-inflammatory  
552 agent (e.g. escalating to combination therapy) compared with the use of intra-articular  
553 glucocorticoids on pain scores, patient global assessment, joint tenderness, joint swelling, activity  
554 limitation, cost, or adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 555 • Does the relative impact of these strategies differ by the number of joints involved (e.g.  
556 mono- or oligoarticular involvement vs. polyarticular involvement)?

557  
558

**Lifestyle factors in patients with gout**

560

561 *For patients with gout, regardless of disease activity:*

562

- 563 41. What is the impact of limiting or abstaining from alcohol intake compared with no limited intake of  
564 alcohol on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life,  
565 activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by  
566 changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability,  
567 QOL?
- 568 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
  - 569 • Does the impact differ by the type of alcohol?
- 570 42. What is the impact of limiting purine intake compared with no limited intake of purines on: gout  
571 flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
572 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
573 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?
- 574 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 575 43. What is the impact of limiting or abstaining from high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) compared with no  
576 limited intake of HFCS on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related  
577 quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as



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- 578 inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient  
579 acceptability, QOL?
- 580 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 581 44. What is the impact of increasing dairy protein intake compared with no increase in dairy intake on:  
582 gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
583 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
584 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?
- 585 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 586 45. What is the impact of following the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet compared  
587 with no specific diet or any other diet on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global  
588 assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in  
589 gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate  
590 and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?
- 591 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 592 46. What is the impact of weight loss compared with no weight loss on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus,  
593 patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum  
594 urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events  
595 (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?
- 596 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 597 47. What is the impact of changing or adding medications that affect urate levels compared with no  
598 change in medication on: gout flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related  
599 quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as  
600 inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious)?
- 601 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 602 • Does the impact differ by type of medication change?
- 603 • Does the impact differ by CKD?
- 604 48. What is the impact of vitamin C supplementation compared with no supplementation on: gout  
605 flares, pain scores, tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity  
606 limitation, joint damage, serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in  
607 serum urate, cost, adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?
- 608 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?
- 609 49. What is the impact of cherry extract intake compared with no intake on: gout flares, pain scores,  
610 tophus, patient global assessment, health related quality of life, activity limitation, joint damage,  
611 serum urate, changes in gout flares or tophus as inferred by changes in serum urate, cost, adverse  
612 events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?
- 613 • Does the impact differ by flare frequency (frequent vs. infrequent)?



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614 **Asymptomatic Hyperuricemia**

615

616 *For individuals with asymptomatic hyperuricemia:*

617

618 50. What is the impact of limiting or abstaining from alcohol intake compared with no limited intake of  
619 alcohol on: development of gout (flare, subcutaneous tophi), adverse events (mild-moderate and  
620 serious), patient acceptability, QOL?

621 Does the impact differ for:

- 622 • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?
- 623 • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?
- 624 • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?
- 625 • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?
- 626 • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?
- 627 • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?
- 628 • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?
- 629 • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?
- 630 • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those  
631 with later onset?

632 51. What is the impact of limiting purine intake compared with no limited intake of purines on:  
633 development of gout (flare, subcutaneous tophi), adverse events (mild-moderate and serious),  
634 patient acceptability, QOL?

635 Does the impact differ for:

- 636 • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?
- 637 • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?
- 638 • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?
- 639 • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?
- 640 • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?
- 641 • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?
- 642 • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?
- 643 • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?
- 644 • Does the impact differ by type of source purine (e.g. animal vs. vegetable)?

645 52. What is the impact of limiting or abstaining from high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) compared with no  
646 limited intake of HFCS on: development of gout (flare, subcutaneous tophi), adverse events (mild-  
647 moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?

648 Does the impact differ for:

- 649 • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?



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- 650           • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?  
651           • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?  
652           • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?  
653           • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?  
654           • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?  
655           • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?  
656           • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?  
657           • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those  
658           with later onset?
- 659   53. What is the impact of increasing dairy protein intake compared with no increase in dairy intake on:  
660   development of gout (flare, subcutaneous tophi), adverse events (mild-moderate and serious),  
661   patient acceptability, QOL?  
662   Does the impact differ for:
- 663           • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?  
664           • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?  
665           • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?  
666           • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?  
667           • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?  
668           • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?  
669           • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?  
670           • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?  
671           • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those  
672           with later onset?
- 673   54. What is the impact of following the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet compared  
674   with no specific diet or any other diet on: development of gout (flare, subcutaneous tophi), adverse  
675   events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?  
676   Does the impact differ for:
- 677           • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?  
678           • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?  
679           • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?  
680           • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?  
681           • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?  
682           • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?  
683           • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?  
684           • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?



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- 685           • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those  
686           with later onset?
- 687 55. What is the impact of weight loss compared with no weight loss on: development of gout (flare,  
688           subcutaneous tophi), adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?  
689           Does the impact differ for:
- 690           • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?  
691           • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?  
692           • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?  
693           • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?  
694           • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?  
695           • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?  
696           • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?  
697           • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?  
698           • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those  
699           with later onset?
- 700 56. What is the impact of changing or adding medications that affect urate levels (such as losartan or  
701           fenofibrate) compared with no change in medication on: development of gout (flare, subcutaneous  
702           tophi), adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?  
703           Does the impact differ for:
- 704           • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?  
705           • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?  
706           • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?  
707           • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?  
708           • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?  
709           • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?  
710           • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?  
711           • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?  
712           • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those  
713           with later onset?
- 714 57. What is the impact of initiating any pharmacologic urate-lowering therapy (allopurinol, febuxostat,  
715           probenecid) compared with no initiation of pharmacologic ULT on: development of gout (flare,  
716           subcutaneous tophi), adverse events (mild-moderate and serious), patient acceptability, QOL?  
717           Does the impact differ for:
- 718           • People with marked hyperuricemia (SU > 9 mg/dl), versus SU 6.8-≤9mg/dL?  
719           • People with CKD 3 or worse versus stages 1 or 2 or no renal disease?  
720           • People with urolithiasis versus no urolithiasis?



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- 721 • People with cardiovascular disease versus no cardiovascular disease?
- 722 • People with hypertension versus no hypertension?
- 723 • People with renal transplantation versus no renal transplantation?
- 724 • People with radiographic gouty bone erosion?
- 725 • People with advanced imaging (US/DECT) evidence of MSU deposition?
- 726 • People with early onset hyperuricemia (<30 in men, premenopausal women) versus those
- 727 with later onset?
- 728



