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Observational Study Rheumatoid Arthritis-Related Healthcare

This was a longitudinal observational study to document patterns of use, effectiveness, and safety of treatment with disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Across 780 sites in the US, the study enrolled 5,000 patients who were exposed to an anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF) drug and another 5,000 who were exposed to other DMARDs. The objective was to determine if ethnic differences exist in the lag time between diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and use of first biological agent. Lag time (e.g., months from RA diagnosis to initiation of the first biological agent) was the principal outcome variable. Safety data, including AEs of interest, and serious AEs, were also collected and analyzed.

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