

# Weekly leflunomide effective for early rheumatoid arthritis

August 24 2015

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(HealthDay)—A higher, weekly dose of leflunomide shows similar benefits to a daily dose for the treatment of mild-to-moderate early rheumatoid arthritis (ERA), according to a study published online Aug. 13 in the *International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases*.

Li-Min Ren, M.D., from the Peking University People's Hospital in China, and colleagues randomly assigned patients with ERA (mild or moderate [disease activity](#)) to either the treatment group (leflunomide 50 mg/week [LEF50]) or the control group (leflunomide 10 mg/day [LEF10]) for 24 weeks.

The researchers found that at week 24, the disease activity scores in 28 joints (DAS28) for both groups were significantly decreased compared with the baseline scores ( $P < 0.05$ ). Similarly, there were no significant differences in the European League Against Rheumatism response rates

between the two groups at weeks eight, 12, and 24 ( $P > 0.05$ ). No serious adverse events were seen during the study.

"A weekly dose of 50 mg leflunomide showed similar benefits to a daily dose of 10 mg leflunomide for the treatment of mild-to-moderate early [rheumatoid arthritis](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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Citation: Weekly leflunomide effective for early rheumatoid arthritis (2015, August 24)  
retrieved 6 May 2024 from  
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-08-weekly-leflunomide-effective-early-rheumatoid.html>

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