

Three-month efficacy data predicts six-month RA Tx efficacy

November 18 2015



(HealthDay)—For patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 50 responses measured at three months can predict six-month treatment efficacy, according to research published online Oct. 30 in the *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*.

Yehong Wang, Ph.D., from Genentech Inc. in San Francisco, and colleagues examined the correlation between short-term and long-term [treatment](#) effect measured by the ACR50 using data from a RA database, constructed from 68 reported trials. The authors quantified the relationship between three- and six-month ACR50 [treatment effects](#).

The researchers found that the Δ ACR50 at six months correlated strongly with that seen at three months, moderately with that seen at two months, and weakly with that seen at less than two months. A scaling

factor based on the ratio of six- to three-month treatment effects was estimated at 0.997, indicating that the treatment effects were approaching a plateau at three months. The scaling factor was not significantly affected by drug classes, baseline 28-joint Disease Activity Score, or the magnitude of control-arm response.

"This work quantitatively supports the empirical clinical development paradigm of using three-month efficacy data to predict long-term efficacy and to inform the probability of clinical success based on early efficacy readout," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to Genentech and F. Hoffmann-La Roche; one author is employed by Quantitative Solutions, a pharmacometrics consulting company.

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Citation: Three-month efficacy data predicts six-month RA Tx efficacy (2015, November 18)
retrieved 19 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-three-month-efficacy-six-month-ra-tx.html>

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