

Non-TNF biologic beats second anti-TNF in rheumatoid arthritis

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(HealthDay)—A non-tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-targeted biologic is

more effective than a second anti-TNF drug for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in patients with insufficient response to a first anti-TNF drug, according to a study published in the Sept. 20 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Jacques-Eric Gottenberg, M.D., Ph.D., from the Strasbourg University Hospital in France, and colleagues randomized 300 patients with [rheumatoid arthritis](#) with persistent disease activity and an [insufficient response](#) to anti-TNF therapy to receive a non-TNF-targeted biologic agent or an anti-TNF that differed from their previous treatment. Overall, 89.7 percent of patients completed the study.

The researchers found that 69 percent of patients in the non-TNF group and 52 percent in the second anti-TNF group achieved a good or moderate European League Against Rheumatism response (odds ratio, 2.06). The non-TNF group had a lower disease activity score in 28 joints-erythrocyte sedimentation rate than in the second anti-TNF group (mean difference, -0.43). More patients in the non-TNF group showed low disease activity at weeks 24 and 52 (odds ratio, 2.09 and 2.26, respectively).

"Among patients with rheumatoid arthritis previously treated with anti-TNF drugs but with inadequate primary response, a non-TNF biologic agent was more effective in achieving a good or moderate [disease activity](#) response at 24 weeks than was the second anti-TNF medication," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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