

Antibiotic treatment and flares of rheumatoid arthritis: a self-controlled case series study analysis using CPRD GOLD.

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Appendix Table 1: A summary of steroid treatment by flare episode number, defined as a minimum of 5mg of glucocorticoid prescribed within one-week of the patient having an RA flare coded. In total, 47.0% of flare episodes had a concurrent steroid prescribed.

Flare episode number	Steroid prescription	No steroid prescription	Total patient number	Percentage (%) Steroid Rx/ Flare Episode
1	538	654	1192	45.1%
2	118	127	245	48.2%
3	52	40	92	56.5%
4	25	15	40	62.5%
5	11	10	21	52.4%
6+	18	13	31	58.1%
Totals	762	859	1621	47.0%

Appendix Table 2: Incidence Rate Ratios with 95% Confidence Intervals for flares of rheumatoid arthritis after exposure of sulphonamide and trimethoprim antibiotics, with sensitivity analyses performed for smoking status, severe flare episodes and length of antibiotic course by quartiles (defined daily dose/quartile). Time periods when risk of flare was increased or decreased are highlighted in bold (*p<0.05, **p<0.01).

Sensitivity analyses category	0-1 days (grace period)			2- 14 days			15-28 days			29-90 days			91- 183 days			184-365 days		
	IRR	95% Lower CI	95% Higher CI	IRR	95% Lower CI	95% Higher CI	IRR	95% Lower CI	95% Higher CI	IRR	95% Lower CI	95% Higher CI	IRR	95% Lower CI	95% Higher CI	IRR	95% Lower CI	95% Higher CI
Smoking (current)	0.00	0.00	.	1.47	0.35	6.07	1.38	0.33	5.76	1.10	0.44	2.78	1.28	0.58	2.83	1.72	0.97	3.06
Smoking (never)	0.99	0.00	.	0.94	0.08	10.81	0.00	0.00	.	2.42	0.73	8.03	0.75	0.20	2.76	0.60	0.22	1.61
Flare cohort with concurrent steroid prescriptions	0.00	0.00	.	0.91	0.22	3.72	0.00	0.00	.	1.24	0.64	2.39	0.41	0.15	1.13	1.37	0.86	2.18
DDD 1 st Q	0.00	0.00	.	0.71	0.10	5.07	0.67	0.09	4.79	1.39	0.67	2.80	1.12	0.55	2.30	1.41	0.85	2.36
DDD 2 nd Q	0.00	0.00	.	1.94	0.47	7.94	0.91	0.13	6.58	1.41	0.61	3.24	0.71	0.26	1.94	1.06	0.55	2.04
DDD 3 rd Q	0.00	0.00	.	0.00	0.00	.	0.77	0.11	5.59	1.94	0.97	3.85	1.41	0.71	2.82	1.95**	1.19	3.16
DDD 4 th Q	0.00	0.00	.	1.95	0.24	15.64	1.91	0.23	15.41	0.00	0.00	.	1.57	0.34	7.15	2.15	0.70	6.56

Appendix Figure 1:

Representation of geographical spread of patients within SCCS analysis cohort. Percentages by region reflect proportion of patients with RA flares who have been treated with steroids during at least one of these episodes.

