Introduction

Monoclonal antibodies against TNF have been associated to the occurrence of reactivation of latent tuberculosis (TB).\textsuperscript{1,2} Due to the high prevalence of TB in Portugal, the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology developed guidelines for the screening and treatment of latent TB in patients treated with biologics. Electronic medical charts that automatically download data into a registry can provide a structured approach to the medical practice and improve the surveillance of adverse effects.

Aim

To present the results of TB screening of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients treated with anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies using an electronic database registry developed by the Portuguese Rheumatology Society- BioRePortAR.

Patients and Methods

Data from patient records was registered in BioRePortAR including RA patients treated with infliximab or adalimumab in Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisboa. Thereafter data was captured directly from the BioReportAR.

Population characteristics:

- 56 patients
- 85.7% female
- Mean age − 53.2±14.1
- Mean duration of treatment − 1198.6 days
- 183.9 patient.years

Results

- 26.8% of the patients were submitted to TB chemoprophylaxis
- 35% of TB chemoprophylaxis was prescribed in PPD negative patients (epidemiological factors were the main determinants for therapy decision)
- No severe adverse effects related to isoniazide
- No reports of TB reactivation
- A *Mycobacterium avium* infection was reported in a patient with longstanding RA treated with infliximab.

Discussion

26.8 % of patients were treated with TB chemoprophylaxis before starting TNF monoclonal antibody, a third of them in PPD negative patients. In negative PPD patients, PPD retesting was not useful. BioRePortAR is a useful tool for the quality assessment of medical practice.

References