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Title: Differences in the management of latent tuberculosis infection in patients treated with anti-TNF- α in Turkey

Dr. Serpil 15243 Ocal drserpilgocmen@yahoo.com MD ¹, Dr. Nalan 15244 Demir dr.ndemir@gmail.com MD ², Prof. Dr Sebnem 15245 Ataman ataman.sebnem@gmail.com MD ³, Dr. Ahmet 15246 Ugur Demir ademir68@gmail.com MD ¹, Prof. Dr Nurben 15247 Suldur nsuldur@yahoo.com MD ³, Dr. Akin 15257 Kaya akaya@medicine.edu.tr MD ² and Prof. Dr Oya 15267 Kayacan kayacan@medicine.edu.tr MD ². ¹

Department of Chest Diseases, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey ; ² Department of Chest Diseases, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey and ³ Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey .

Body: **AIM:** Latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) is commonly detected with the tuberculin skin test (TST) before anti-TNF- α . BCG vaccination modifies TST reaction. We use different approaches to evaluate LTBI. We aimed to evaluate different approaches to LTBI and results in our clinic. **METHOD:** This report retrospectively evaluated data of patients treated with anti-TNF- α , including symptoms, size of TST reaction, used anti-TNF agent, treatment details and development of active tuberculosis disease. **RESULTS:** The study identified 99 consecutive patients referred for the evaluation of LTBI before starting anti-TNF therapy (54 men; mean age \pm SD: 44 \pm 12). The diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis was established in 56 patients, rheumatoid arthritis in 36 and other systemic inflammatory diseases in 7. Fifty four patients received infliximab, 36 adalimumab, 41 etanercept. The median follow up was 25 months (range 9-41). Of the 56 patients who underwent LTBI treatment, 29 took isoniazid for 6 months and 20 for 9 months, 7 did not complete a 6-month course of LTBI treatment. Two took isoniazid for 12 months and one for 24 months. Three patients who had a history of treatment of tuberculosis had received anti-TNF- α agonist. Active tuberculosis developed in one of the two patients who had TST >15 mm and refused LTBI treatment after 3 month of anti-TNF- α treatment. **CONCLUSION:** Different LTBI approaches according to threshold size of TST reaction was observed even in the same center in our country. We need a multicenter study to determine the best TST threshold value to develop national guidelines.