



British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) Statement on Rituximab for Refractory Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

In July of this year rituximab was licensed for the treatment of patients with refractory RA.

BSR at present does not have formal guidance on the use of rituximab but has decided that it would be appropriate to make an interim statement.

We recognise that there is clear evidence to support the use of rituximab as a treatment for adult patients with refractory RA, who have had an inadequate response to previous treatments including anti-TNF α . Whilst there have not been any direct comparisons with anti-TNF α drugs in RA, rituximab appears to be as effective as other licensed biologic agents.

NICE will be undertaking a single technology appraisal in 2007 and BSR may produce a guideline subsequently. In the meantime, the drug should be used in line with the Summary of Product Characteristics (Data Sheet) from the manufacturers

BSR
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