Unresolved Issues in Identifying and Overcoming Inadequate Response in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Weighing the Evidence

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, multisystem, inflammatory disorder of the joints that affects approximately 1% of the world population. The ultimate goals of therapy include remission of disease and prevention of joint damage. Reaching these goals has become a realistic outcome for an increasing number of patients as treatment options have expanded over the past 3 decades. In addition to older therapies, such as methotrexate (MTX), other disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD), and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors, newer biologic treatments have become available. For the substantial number of patients who experience an inadequate response to standard medications, biological response modifiers (BRM) provide an important therapeutic alternative. The availability of multiple treatment options in the absence of clear definitions or criteria for remission and inadequate response, however, makes clinical decisions about measuring outcomes, predicting response to treatment, and prescribing pharmacologic therapies challenging. In this program, distinguished rheumatologists weigh the evolving body of clinical evidence to draw sound conclusions and resolve key issues in managing inadequate response to treatment and in achieving optimal outcomes in RA.

Target Audience

Unresolved Issues in Identifying and Overcoming Inadequate Response: Weighing the Evidence is intended for rheumatologists, rheumatology fellows, and other medical professionals interested in understanding the challenges of defining inadequate response to RA therapy and developing effective evidence-based strategies to attain treatment goals and achieve optimal outcomes.

Educational Objectives

This educational activity has been developed to improve your ability to:

Identify key unresolved issues in defining and overcoming inadequate response to therapy in RA

Evaluate the clinical evidence to draw sound conclusions about the

- Applicability, benefits, and limitations of various outcome measures to identify and treat inadequate response to therapy
- Utility and reliability of predictors of response in aiding treatment decisions
- Safety and efficacy of currently available BRM

Apply an appropriate, clinically rational, evidence-based approach to altering BRM therapy to achieve adequate response and minimize disease progression

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Accreditation
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide CME for physicians.

Credit Designation
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

How to Receive CME Credit
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UT Southwestern Medical Center,
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It is the policy of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center that participants in CME activities be made aware of any affiliation or financial interest that may affect the speaker's presentation. Each speaker has completed and signed a conflict of interest statement. The faculty members' relationships are disclosed in the course material.

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Information and opinions offered by the speakers represent their viewpoints. Conclusions drawn by the audience should be derived from careful consideration of all available scientific information. Products may be discussed for treatment outside current approved labeling.

Faculty Disclosures
Dr. Stanley Cohen has disclosed that he has served as a clinical investigator and research consultant for Genentech, Inc., Biogen Idec, Merck & Co., Inc., sanofi-aventis, Procter & Gamble, Pfizer Inc., Centocor, Inc., Amgen Inc., Scios Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, and Wyeth.

Dr. Marc Cohen has disclosed that he has consulted for Genentech, Inc., Abbott Laboratories, Wyeth, Amgen Inc., and Centocor, Inc. He also has served on speakers' bureaus for Genentech, Inc., Abbott Laboratories, and Amgen, Inc.

Dr. John J. Cush has disclosed that he has worked as a clinical investigator for Abbott Laboratories, Genentech, Inc., Biogen Idec, Pfizer Inc., Targeted Genetics Corporation, and UCB. He also has served as an advisor, consultant, or lecturer for Centocor, Inc., Abbott Laboratories, Trubion Pharmaceuticals Inc., sanofi-aventis, UCB, Pfizer Inc., Wyeth, and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

Dr. Roy M. Fleischmann has disclosed that he has served on speakers' bureaus and advisory committees and as an independent contractor and consultant for Abbott Laboratories, Johnson & Johnson, Amgen Inc., Wyeth, and Genentech, Inc.

Dr. Philip J. Mease has disclosed that he has served on speakers' bureaus and as an independent contractor and consultant for Abbott Laboratories, Amgen Inc., Biogen Idec, Centocor, Inc., and Genentech, Inc. He has also served as an independent contractor for Roche Laboratories and Wyeth and as a consultant for Roche Laboratories and UCB. He is a stock owner of Amgen Inc.

Dr. Michael H. Schiff has disclosed that he has received research support and served as a consultant and on speakers' bureaus for Abbott Laboratories, Amgen Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Centocor, Inc., and Roche Laboratories. He has also consulted and spoken for Wyeth, consulted for UCB, and received research support from Genentech, Inc., UCB, and Targeted Genetics Corporation.

Dr. Lee S. Simon has disclosed that he has consulted for AAI Pharma Inc., Abbott Laboratories, Abraxis BioScience, Inc., Affinergy, Inc., Alder Biopharmaceuticals Inc., Alimera Sciences, AlphaRx, Altea Therapeutics Corporation, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Pfizer Inc., Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Bayer HealthCare AG, Avanir Pharmaceuticals, Biosense

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Dr. Arthur L. Weaver has disclosed that he served on speakers' bureaus, advisory committees, and as a consultant for Abbott Laboratories, Amgen Inc., Astellas Pharma Inc., sanofi-aventis, Biogen Idec, Biovail Corporation, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Centocor, Inc., Cypress Pharmaceutical, Inc., Fujisawa, Genentech, Inc., Helsinn Group, Horizon Therapeutics, Human Genome Sciences, Inc., Eli Lilly and Company, Medecisive Laboratories, Merck & Co., Inc., Merkel, Mylan Laboratories Inc., Novartis, Ortho-McNeil, Inc., Pfizer Inc., Primus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Prometheus, Proprius Pharmaceuticals, Shwarz Pharma AG, TAP Pharmaceutical Products Inc., Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc., TheraQuest Biosciences, and Wyeth. Additionally, he is on the board of directors and owns stock in MGI Pharma.

Discussion of Off-Label Use

Because this course is meant to educate physicians with what is currently in use and what may be available in the future, "off-label" use may be discussed. Authors have been requested to inform the reader when off-label use is being discussed.