

Why carry out this study?

- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) requires chronic therapy. However, RA often affects the small joints of the hand and impairs dexterity, making self-injection difficult as it requires several hand manipulations. Autoinjectors can help to overcome some of these barriers and enable administration of subcutaneous (SC) therapies in the home environment
- Two independently conducted, simulated-use studies aimed to determine whether the pre-filled, single-use abatacept autoinjector (ClickJect®; Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ, USA) can be used by the intended population – patients with RA, caregivers, and healthcare professionals (HCPs) – without patterns of preventable use errors, and is acceptable when assessed against key user needs, i.e. comfort, control, ease of use, confidence of dose, and overall acceptability

What was learned from the study?

- Overall acceptability scores (7-point scale) were significantly higher for the abatacept versus competitor autoinjectors – formative (pre-validation) study: patients 6.7 vs 5.2 ($P=0.0001$), caregivers 7.0 vs 4.6 ($P=0.0093$), HCPs 6.8 vs 5.1 ($P=0.0020$); summative (validation) study: patients 6.5 vs 5.9 ($P=0.0404$), caregivers 6.8 vs 5.8 ($P=0.0047$), HCPs 6.8 vs 5.1 ($P=0.0002$). The abatacept autoinjector was preferred to competitor devices: patients 85.7% vs 14.3% ($P=0.00002$), caregivers 84.2% vs 15.8% ($P=0.00443$), HCPs 95.0% vs 5.0% ($P=0.00004$)
- The study showed that the abatacept autoinjector could be used by its intended user groups (patients, caregivers, and HCPs) without patterns of preventable use errors, and was rated highly for acceptability across all key attributes. The device was also preferred over competitor autoinjectors due to device ergonomics, visualization of dose progression, confidence of dose delivery, and overall ease of use
- This manuscript addresses best patient care for easier use of SC therapy

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