

Supplementary material - table 1: Characteristics of patients with early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and variables used for the tested matrices.

Cohort/reference	Design	RA population Demographics	Characteristics	Matrix variables			Treatment
				Clinical	Biomarker	Radiography	
ASPIRE (17, 30)	RCT MTX vs. MTX+IFX	Early RA MTX-naïve N=1049 Mean age 51 yrs Female 71%	Mean symptom duration: 0.8 yr Mean DAS28: 6.6 Mean HAQ 1.5 RF+: 72% Erosive disease 82%	SJC /66	CRP or ESR RF	-	Stratification by - MTX alone - or MTX + IFX
BeSt (24, 32)	RCT MTX vs. Triple therapy or MTX+IFX	Early RA DMARD- naïve RA N=465 Mean age 54 yrs Female 68%	Mean symptom duration 0.6 yr Mean DAS44: 4.5 Mean HAQ 1.5 RF+: 65% Erosive disease 82%	-	CRP RF or ACPA	Erosion score	Stratification by - MTX alone - or COBRA - or MTX + IFX
SWEFOT (25, 31)	RCT MTX+IFX Vs. Combo synthetic DMARD	Early RA MTX-IR N=258 Mean age 52 yrs Female 77%	Mean symptom duration 0.6 yr Mean DAS28: 4.8 Mean HAQ 1.3 RF+: 67% Erosive disease 82%	Smoking status	CRP	≥ 1 erosion	
SONORA (26)	Cohort	New-onset RA DMARD-naïve RA N=994 Mean age 53 yrs Female 72%	Mean symptom duration: n.a. Mean DAS28: 4.4 Mean HAQ: n.a. RF+: n.a. Erosive disease: n.a.	DAS28	CRP RF or ACPA	vSHS	
ESPOIR (28)	Cohort	New-onset RA DMARD-naïve Treated with MTX N=370 Mean age 49 yrs Female 73%	Mean symptom duration: 0.6 yrs Mean DAS28: 5.4 Mean HAQ: 1.0 RF+: 55% Erosive disease: 18%	SJC	CRP ACPA	RA typical erosion or vSHS (modified matrix)	

RCT: randomized controlled trial – MTX: methotrexate – IFX: infliximab -- DMARD: disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug -- RF: rheumatoid factor – -
- ACPA: anti-citrullinated protein antibodies -- CRP: C-reactive protein – ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate – DAS28: Disease Activity Score in 28
joints using ESR – HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire – SJC: swollen joint count -- n.a.: not available – vSHS: van der Heijde-modified Sharp
score