

Supplementary table 1. Effectiveness of tacrolimus and sirolimus at 3 months

	Tacrolimus	Sirolimus	P value
Change of SLEDAI-2K	-4.00 (-8.00, 0.00)	-4.00 (-7.00, -2.00)	0.911
SLEDAI-2K reduction $\geq 4$ and PhGA increase $< 0.3$	23/39 (58.97%)	25/43 (58.14%)	1.000
Change of PhGA	-0.20 (-0.50, 0.20)	-0.20 (-0.50, 0.00)	0.964
PhGA reduction $\geq 0.3$	15/37 (40.54%)	19/41 (46.34%)	0.653
Clinical remission on therapy	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
Remission or LLDAS	2/33 (6.06%)	8/33 (24.24%)	0.082
Change of C3 (g/L)	0.07 (-0.03, 0.27)	0.19 (0.06, 0.39)	<b>0.017</b>
Change of C3 (%)	8.11 (-2.99, 34.57)	25.32 (8.47, 50.06)	<b>0.034</b>
Change of C4 (g/L)	0.01 (0.00, 0.04)	0.04 (0.01, 0.07)	<b>0.024</b>
Change of C4 (%)	11.36 (0.00, 37.21)	35.14 (7.63, 79.17)	<b>0.017</b>
Recovered hypocomplementemia	22/42 (52.38%)	24/52 (46.15%)	0.678
Normalized anti-dsDNA	20/24 (83.33%)	18/30 (60.00%)	0.078
Change of GC dose (mg/d)	0.00 (-10.00, 0.00)	0.00 (-17.50, 0.00)	0.864
Change of GC dose (%)	0.00 (-28.57, 0.00)	0.00 (-50.00, 0.00)	0.548
No GC use	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
GC dose $\leq 7.5$ mg/day prednisone	6/34 (17.65%)	17/35 (48.57%)	<b>0.010</b>
Renal efficacy			0.859
Complete remission	2/10 (20%)	3/14 (21.43%)	
Partial remission	2/10 (20%)	5/14 (35.71%)	
No remission	6/10 (60%)	6/14 (42.86%)	
Change of 24hUP	-1.25 (-3.66, -0.46)	-0.89 (-1.49, 0.62)	0.279
Hematuria	10/39 (25.64%)	13/33 (30.23%)	0.806

SLEDAI-2K: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000; PhGA: physician's global

assessment; LLDAS: lupus low disease activity state; anti-dsDNA: anti-double-stranded DNA; GC:

glucocorticoid; 24hUP: 24-hour urine protein; N/A: not applicable.

Supplementary table 2. Effectiveness of tacrolimus and sirolimus at 9 months

	Tacrolimus	Sirolimus	P value
Change of SLEDAI-2K	-4.00 (-6.50, -0.50)	-4.00 (-6.00, -2.00)	0.616
SLEDAI-2K reduction $\geq 4$ and PhGA increase $< 0.3$	12/20 (60%)	10/17 (58.82%)	0.300
Change of PhGA	-0.45 (-0.80, -0.30)	-0.25 (-0.70, 0.10)	0.259
PhGA reduction $\geq 0.3$	16/20 (80%)	8/16 (50%)	0.081
Clinical remission on therapy	1/15 (6.67%)	1/13 (7.69%)	1.000
Remission or LLDAS	4/15 (26.67%)	3/13 (23.08%)	1.000
Change of C3 (g/L)	0.06 (-0.08, 0.28)	0.20 (0.10, 0.26)	0.108
Change of C3 (%)	7.15 (-8.51, 34.20)	24.27 (9.81, 61.13)	0.108
Change of C4 (g/L)	0.01 (-0.04, 0.04)	0.03 (0.01, 0.04)	0.156
Change of C4 (%)	8.97 (-15.35, 32.21)	46.91 (12.50, 95.24)	0.059
Recovered hypocomplementemia	14/24 (58.33%)	14/24 (58.33%)	1.000
Normalized anti-dsDNA	8/20 (40%)	12/24 (50%)	0.556
Change of GC dose (mg/d)	0.00 (-20.00, 0.00)	-4.00 (-9.00, 0.00)	0.343
Change of GC dose (%)	0.00 (-66.67, 0.00)	-50.00 (-61.90, 0.00)	0.402
No GC use	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A
GC dose $\leq 7.5$ mg/day prednisone	5/15 (33.33%)	11/14 (78.57%)	<b>0.025</b>
Renal efficacy			0.679
Complete remission	0/5 (0%)	1/3 (33.33%)	
Partial remission	2/5 (40%)	1/3 (33.33%)	
No remission	3/5 (60%)	1/3 (33.33%)	
Change of 24hUP	-3.36 (-4.86, -0.12)	-1.22 (-1.85, 0.02)	0.423
Hematuria	7/20 (35.0%)	2/17 (11.8%)	0.137

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Supplementary table 3. Effectiveness of tacrolimus and sirolimus at 12 months

	Tacrolimus	Sirolimus	P value
Change of SLEDAI-2K	-4.00 (-9.00, -2.00)	-2.00 (-6.00, 0.00)	0.243
SLEDAI-2K reduction $\geq 4$ and PhGA increase $< 0.3$	12/19 (63.16%)	6/15 (40%)	0.300
Change of PhGA	-0.55 (-0.80, 0.00)	0.10 (-0.70, 0.30)	0.064
PhGA reduction $\geq 0.3$	11/18 (61.11%)	5/15 (33.33%)	0.166
Clinical remission on therapy	1/16 (6.25%)	2/14 (14.29%)	0.586
Remission or LLDAS	3/16 (18.75%)	4/14 (28.57%)	0.675
Change of C3 (g/L)	0.11 (-0.04, 0.40)	0.08 (-0.01, 0.49)	0.929
Change of C3 (%)	15.88 (-4.21, 36.43)	19.94 (-1.68, 89.38)	0.733
Change of C4 (g/L)	0.00 (-0.04, 0.05)	0.02 (-0.00, 0.08)	0.263
Change of C4 (%)	0.00 (-13.79, 25.00)	15.79 (-1.71, 141.38)	0.072
Recovered hypocomplementemia	14/18 (77.78%)	10/18 (55.56%)	0.289
Normalized anti-dsDNA	8/18 (44.44%)	8/24 (33.33%)	0.531
Change of GC dose (mg/d)	0.00 (-2.00, 0.00)	-3.00 (-19.00, -1.00)	0.063
Change of GC dose (%)	0.00 (-25.00, 0.00)	-41.67 (-79.29, -12.50)	<b>0.033</b>
No GC use	1/17 (5.88%)	0 (0%)	1.000
GC dose $\leq 7.5$ mg/day prednisone	6/17 (35.29%)	12/14 (85.71%)	<b>0.009</b>
Renal efficacy			1.000
Complete remission	3/8 (37.5%)	2/6 (33.33%)	
Partial remission	2/8 (25%)	1/6 (16.67%)	
No remission	3/8 (37.5%)	3/6 (50%)	

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Change of 24hUP	-0.86 (-3.55, -0.55)	-0.1 (-1.47, 0.52)	0.201
Hematuria	5/19 (26.3%)	2/15 (13.3%)	0.426

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