

## *Why carry out this study?*

- The recommended starting dose of intravenous tocilizumab (TCZ) in the United States is 4 mg/kg every 4 weeks, with the option to increase to 8 mg/kg based on clinical response; however, real-world data on dosing variability are lacking.
- The objective of this descriptive analysis was to evaluate how intravenous TCZ was dosed over 6 months in patients with rheumatoid arthritis who newly initiated TCZ in the comparative effectiveness substudy (CERTAIN) nested within the Corrona database.

## *What was learned from the study?*

- One-hundred ninety-nine patients initiated TCZ at 4 mg/kg and were subsequently categorized as those who either remained on TCZ 4 mg/kg at 3 months ( $n = 86$ ) or were escalated to TCZ 8 mg/kg by or at 3 months ( $n = 113$ ).
- These real-world data suggest that physicians escalate the dose of TCZ at varying frequencies, with the majority of patients (57%) having their dose escalated to 8 mg/kg by or at 3 months and 76% receiving 8 mg/kg at 6 months.
- The majority of patients in both TCZ dosing pattern groups achieved moderate or good European League Against Rheumatism response and experienced improvement in effectiveness outcomes, indicating that physicians adjusted TCZ dose appropriately and took advantage of the option to tailor TCZ dose based on clinical response.

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