Preference for a prefilled syringe or an auto-injection device for delivering golimumab in patients with moderate-to-severe ulcerative colitis: a randomized crossover study

Séverine Vermeire,1 François D’heugere,2 Antoine Nakad,3 Denis Franchimont,4 Fernand Fontaine,5 Edouard Louis,6 Philippe Van Hootegem,7 Olivier Dewit,8 Guy Lambrecht,9 Beatrijs Strubbe,10 Filip Baert11

1Department of Gastroenterology, University Hospital Gasthuisberg, Leuven, Belgium; 2Department of Gastroenterology, AZ Groeninge, Kortrijk, Belgium; 3Department of Gastroenterology, CHWAPI, Tournai, Belgium; 4Department of Gastroenterology, Erasme Hospital, Brussels, Belgium; 5Department of Gastroenterology, CHC St Joseph, Liège, Belgium; 6Department of Gastroenterology, University Hospital CHU Sart Tilman, Liège, Belgium; 7Department of Gastroenterology, AZ St Lucas, Brugge, Belgium; 8Department of Gastroenterology, UCL St Luc, Brussels, Belgium; 9Department of Gastroenterology, AZ Damiaan, Oostende, Belgium; 10Department of Gastroenterology, OLV Hospital, Aalst, Belgium; 11Department of Gastroenterology, AZ Delta, Roeselare-Menen, Belgium

Purpose: Simponi® (golimumab, MSD) is a fully human monoclonal antibody against tumor necrosis factor alpha administered subcutaneously using an autoinjector or a prefilled syringe. This study examined preference for administration of golimumab by autoinjector or prefilled syringe in patients with moderate-to-severe ulcerative colitis (UC).

Patients and methods: This was a multicenter, open-label, randomized crossover trial (EudraCT no 2014-000656-29). Patients with moderate-to-severe UC were randomized 1:1 to receive 2 subcutaneous injections of 50 mg golimumab with the autoinjector followed by 2 injections of 50 mg with the prefilled syringe or the same 4 injections administered in the opposite order. Patients assessed preference, ease of use, and discomfort immediately after the injections and 2 weeks later.

Results: Ninety-one patients were included (median age=42.7 years [range, 19.7–93.7]; 58% male). The autoinjector was preferred by 76.9% of patients immediately after injections and by 71.4% 2 weeks later. The autoinjector was more often considered extremely easy or easy to use (94.5%) than the prefilled syringe (73.6%). Moderate discomfort or worse was reported by more patients when using the prefilled syringe (20.9%) than when using the autoinjector (5.5%), and severe discomfort or discomfort preventing injection of future doses was reported by 8.8% for the prefilled syringe but not at all when using the autoinjector. A favorable or extremely favorable overall impression was reported by 89.0% for the autoinjector and 72.5% for the prefilled syringe.

Conclusion: Most patients with moderate-to-severe UC preferred to self-administer golimumab with the autoinjector over a prefilled syringe.

Keywords: autoinjector, adherence, anti-TNF, subcutaneous injection, treatment, self-injection

Introduction

Ulcerative colitis (UC) is a chronic and incurable autoimmune inflammatory bowel disorder characterized by continuous inflammation and ulceration of the mucosa of the rectum and, to a variable extent, the colon.1,2 The disease affects 2.5 million people worldwide and is usually diagnosed when individuals are in their 20s and peaks again in their 60s or 70s, but it can occur at any age. UC is generally characterized by flares that alternate with periods of remission, although some patients have continuous activity. The severity of flares and their response to treatment are difficult to predict, although the frequency of flares decreases with time. Between 25% and 40% of people living with UC will require surgery at some point in their life.1
Simponi® (golimumab, MSD, Janssen Biotech, Inc., Horsham, PA, USA) is a fully human monoclonal antibody against tumor necrosis factor α (TNF-α) available in the European Union since 2013 for the treatment of moderate-to-severe active UC in adult patients who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy or who are intolerant to or have medical contraindications for such therapies. Golimumab is also indicated for the treatment of moderate-to-severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (in combination with methotrexate), active psoriatic arthritis (alone or in combination with methotrexate), and active ankylosing spondylitis.

Golimumab is administered with the SmartJect® autoinjector (MSD, Janssen Biotech, Inc.) or with a prefilled syringe (Figure 1). The SmartJect autoinjector was developed to simplify self-injection of golimumab for patients suffering from RA, psoriatic arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis, with the objective of optimizing treatment adherence. Autoinjectors offer several advantages, including portability, convenience, and flexible scheduling, and they have been shown to improve treatment adherence. In the GO-MORE study, which examined the efficacy and safety of golimumab in biologic-naive RA patients, two-thirds of those who self-injected chose to use the autoinjector over a prefilled syringe. In addition, most of the patients using the autoinjector had a favorable impression of it, considered it easy to use, and reported that it caused little pain or discomfort. Device preferences for UC patients, however, have not been reported and may be different from RA patients who often suffer from hand pain, swelling, and deformities. Here, we report the results of a study examining whether patients with moderate-to-severe UC prefer administration of golimumab using the SmartJect autoinjector or a prefilled syringe.

**Patients and methods**

**Study design**

This was a multicenter, open-label, randomized, crossover trial comparing preference for administration of golimumab using the SmartJect autoinjector or a prefilled syringe in patients with moderate-to-severe UC (EudraCT no 2014-000656-29). The trial was conducted at 20 sites in Belgium (19 sites recruited patients) between July 2014 and October 2015. The primary objective was to determine whether UC patients prefer to administer golimumab using the autoinjector, using a prefilled syringe, or are undecided. Secondary objectives were to determine which of the 2 administration devices patients consider the easiest to use and result in the least discomfort, and how patient characteristics influence device preference.

The study included adults with an established diagnosis of UC and moderate-to-severe disease (Mayo score ≥6, including an endoscopic subscore ≥2) and a previous conventional therapy of at least 3 months with aminosalicylates and at least 3 months with corticosteroids, 6-mercaptopurine, or azathioprine unless intolerant to or contraindicated for such therapies. Individuals who previously self-injected any agent or who were using other biological agents were excluded.

Patients completed a questionnaire to collect demographic data, and investigators collected information about the patient’s medical history. Patients were then randomized 1:1 to receive 2 injections of golimumab 50 mg (Simponi®, MSD) with the autoinjector (SmartJect®, MSD) followed by 2 injections of 50 mg with the prefilled syringe or 2 injections of 50 mg golimumab with the prefilled syringe followed by 2 injections with the autoinjector (total 200 mg golimumab administered). All injections were subcutaneous, were in the same part of the body, and were performed on the same day (day 0). The first of the 2 injections with each device was performed by the physician, and the second by the patient under the physician’s supervision.

Immediately after using each device, patients answered a questionnaire assessing the hand used to self-inject (left, right, both), ease of use for self-injection (extremely easy, easy, neither easy nor difficult, difficult, or extremely difficult), overall discomfort (none, mild, moderate, severe,
or such discomfort that I cannot inject future doses), and overall impression of the self-injection experience (extremely favorable, favorable, neither favorable nor unfavorable, unfavorable, or extremely unfavorable). After completing all 4 injections, patients completed a questionnaire on their preference for the devices (prefilled syringe, autoinjector, or undecided). After 2 weeks, the patient was contacted to complete the device preference questionnaire again to capture the effect of any delayed adverse events on the patient’s responses.

Investigators recorded adverse events according to the International Conference on Harmonization Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice including the following: adverse event/diagnosis; dates of onset and resolution; severity (mild, moderate, severe), whether the event was serious (yes/no) and, if so, why; potential relationship to the study drug (yes/no); and action taken. Adverse events were considered serious if they resulted in death, were life threatening, required hospitalization or prolongation of an existing inpatient hospitalization, resulted in a persistent or significant disability or incapacity, were a congenital abnormality or birth defect, were cancer, were associated with an overdose, or were any other important medical event.

Ethics
The study was approved by each site’s independent ethics committee (Table S1) and was conducted in accordance with International Conference on Harmonization Guideline for Good Clinical Practice. All included patients provided written informed consent.

Study size estimate
A power calculation was not performed. Instead, a study size estimate of 100 subjects was planned based on sample sizes that yielded relevant results in similar studies. Assuming 10% dropout, approximately 110 subjects were to be screened.

Statistical analysis
The primary outcome measure (device preference) was analyzed in the per-protocol set, defined as all subjects who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria, received all 4 injections, and completed the device preference questionnaire. Statistical analyses of preference included frequency distribution overall immediately and 2 weeks after injection; by order of device administration; 2 weeks after injection by preference immediately after injection; and by age, sex, ethnicity, marital status, education level, employment status, and total Mayo score category. Statistical analysis of secondary outcome measures (ease of use, discomfort, and overall impression) included frequency distribution overall and by order of injection. As stipulated in the study protocol, only descriptive statistics were calculated, although in a post hoc analysis, preferences were analyzed according to subject baseline characteristics by Cochrane–Armitage trend test or Fisher’s exact test, with p-values below 0.05 considered to indicate statistical significance. Missing data were not replaced. Calculations were made using SAS version 9.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

Results
Patients
Between July 11, 2014, and September 17, 2015, 100 patients were included in the study, and the study was completed on October 5, 2015. Of the 100 recruited patients, 99 were treated. Another 8 patients did not fulfill the selection criteria. Thus, 91 patients were included in the analysis. Most of these patients were between 30 and 60 years of age, slightly more than half were male, and all but 2 were White/Caucasian (Table S2). On average, patients had been diagnosed with UC for 8.6 years. Disease severity was moderate in about two-thirds and severe in about one-third, although precise proportions depended slightly on the assessment (Mayo score, physician’s global assessment, and sigmoidoscopic and endoscopic findings). Most were being treated with 5-aminosalicylic acid and corticosteroids, and most had not previously received anti-TNF therapy.

Device preference
Immediately after injections, approximately three-quarters of patients (76.9%) indicated that they preferred administering golimumab with the autoinjector (Figure 2). This was similar to the preference reported 2 weeks later, with 71.4% reporting that they preferred the autoinjector. This was also the case irrespective of the order of injection, although more patients who started with the autoinjector preferred it (84.4%) than patients who started with the prefilled syringe (69.6%). Also, most patients (92.3%) did not change their preference 2 weeks later: of those who preferred a prefilled syringe immediately after the injections, all still preferred it 2 weeks later, and of those that preferred the autoinjector immediately after the injections, 92.9% still preferred it 2 weeks later. Results were similar when analyzed for all 99 patients completing the questionnaire (data not shown). A post hoc analysis showed that preference for the autoinjector was not significantly affected by patient age, disease severity, or previous anti-TNF therapy.
severity as measured by the total Mayo score, sex, marital/cohabitation status, level of education, employment status, or time since UC diagnosis (data not shown).

**Ease of use, discomfort, and overall impression of the devices**

More patients considered the autoinjector extremely easy or easy to use (94.5%) than the prefilled syringe (73.6%) (Table 1). Moderate discomfort or worse was reported by only 5 patients (5.5%) when using the autoinjector but by 19 patients (20.9%) when using the prefilled syringe. Severe discomfort or discomfort such that the patient could not inject future doses was reported by 8 patients (8.8%) when using the prefilled syringe but was not reported by any of the patients using the autoinjector.

In agreement with these findings, 89.0% of patients had an overall extremely favorable or favorable impression of the autoinjector, while 72.5% had an extremely favorable or

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**Figure 2** Device preference.

**Notes:** Patient preference for the different devices was assessed immediately after the injections and 2 weeks later. (A) Device preference according to order of presentation immediately after the injections. (B) Device preference according to order of presentation 2 weeks after the injections. (C) Device preference at week 2 according to preference immediately after the injections. (D) Device preference immediately after the injections according to age group. (E) Device preference immediately after the injections according to Mayo score at baseline.
favorable impression of the prefilled syringe. An unfavorable impression of the device or worse was reported by only 2 patients (2.2%) when using the autoinjector but by 8 patients (8.8%) when using the prefilled syringe.

The order of use of the 2 different devices appeared to slightly bias the subjects toward the device they used first. For example, the proportion of patients with an extremely favorable or favorable impression of the autoinjector was 93.3% when it was used first vs 84.8% when it was used second. Likewise, the proportion of patients with an extremely favorable or favorable impression of the prefilled syringe was 84.8% when it was used first vs 60.0% when it was used second.

Safety

None of the patients experienced a serious adverse event. Treatment-emergent adverse events, all mild or moderate in severity, were reported by 10 patients (10.1%) (Table S3). These events included injection-site hematoma (n=2), injection-site pain (n=1), palpitations (n=1), UC flare (n=1), dyspepsia (n=1), flatulence (n=1), hemorrhoidal hemorrhage (n=1), tooth sensitivity (n=1), parotid gland enlargement (n=1), viral upper respiratory tract infection (n=1), headache (n=1), and hot flush (n=1).

Discussion

This study showed that most patients with moderate-to-severe UC preferred to self-administer golimumab with the autoinjector over a prefilled syringe. More patients found the autoinjector easier to use and to less often cause discomfort than the prefilled syringe. This preference for the autoinjector did not change when measured again 2 weeks later, during which time most delayed reactions would have appeared. Demographic characteristics did not significantly affect preference. Order of presentation did not affect the overall preference for the autoinjector, although it biased the preference somewhat toward the device first presented. The results of this study are strengthened by the fact that data were collected in a real-life clinical setting at multiple sites. In addition, although the absolute sample size was small, this study included a relatively large population for UC and was enough to observe meaningful differences in preference.

Overall opinions were also favorable in the GO-MORE trial, in which patients with active RA self-injected or had someone else administer subcutaneous golimumab with the same device.4 Although individuals with RA often suffer from hand pain, swelling, and deformities, in GO-MORE, two-thirds of patients who chose to self-inject selected the autoinjector over a prefilled syringe. Most of the patients in the GO-MORE study who used the autoinjector had a favorable impression of it, considered it easy to use, and reported that it caused little pain or discomfort. However, the study did not directly assess preference or compare patient experiences between the autoinjector and injection with the prefilled syringe. A preference for the golimumab autoinjector over previous injection devices was also reported by 70.6% of patients in the GO-SAVE trial, which included patients with active RA who were switched from adalimumab or etanercept to golimumab.12

Table 1  Ease of use, discomfort, and overall impression of the devices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Autoinjector first</th>
<th>Prefilled syringe first</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Autoinjector first</th>
<th>Prefilled syringe first</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ease of use of self-injection</td>
<td>Extremely easy</td>
<td>27 (60.0)</td>
<td>26 (56.5)</td>
<td>53 (58.2)</td>
<td>9 (20.0)</td>
<td>15 (32.6)</td>
<td>24 (26.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>17 (37.8)</td>
<td>16 (34.8)</td>
<td>33 (36.3)</td>
<td>20 (44.4)</td>
<td>23 (50.0)</td>
<td>43 (47.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neither easy nor difficult</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>2 (2.2)</td>
<td>11 (24.4)</td>
<td>5 (10.9)</td>
<td>16 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>1 (1.1)</td>
<td>2 (4.4)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>3 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extremely difficult</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (4.3)</td>
<td>2 (2.2)</td>
<td>3 (6.7)</td>
<td>2 (4.3)</td>
<td>5 (5.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discomfort during self-injection</td>
<td>No discomfort</td>
<td>27 (60.0)</td>
<td>29 (63.0)</td>
<td>56 (61.5)</td>
<td>11 (24.4)</td>
<td>24 (52.2)</td>
<td>35 (38.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mild discomfort</td>
<td>17 (37.8)</td>
<td>13 (28.3)</td>
<td>30 (33.0)</td>
<td>20 (44.4)</td>
<td>17 (37.0)</td>
<td>37 (40.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate discomfort</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>4 (8.7)</td>
<td>5 (5.5)</td>
<td>9 (20.0)</td>
<td>2 (4.3)</td>
<td>11 (12.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe discomfort</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>3 (6.7)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>3 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Such discomfort that I cannot inject future doses</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (4.4)</td>
<td>3 (6.5)</td>
<td>5 (5.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall impression of the self-injection</td>
<td>Extremely favorable</td>
<td>17 (37.8)</td>
<td>26 (56.5)</td>
<td>43 (47.3)</td>
<td>8 (17.8)</td>
<td>18 (39.1)</td>
<td>26 (28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>25 (55.6)</td>
<td>13 (28.3)</td>
<td>38 (41.8)</td>
<td>19 (42.2)</td>
<td>21 (45.7)</td>
<td>40 (44.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neither favorable nor unfavorable</td>
<td>3 (6.7)</td>
<td>5 (10.9)</td>
<td>8 (18.8)</td>
<td>13 (28.9)</td>
<td>4 (8.7)</td>
<td>17 (18.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall experience</td>
<td>Unfavorable</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (4.3)</td>
<td>2 (2.2)</td>
<td>3 (6.7)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>4 (4.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extremely unfavorable</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (4.4)</td>
<td>2 (4.3)</td>
<td>4 (4.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data presented as n (%).
Prefilled pens or other autoinjectors are also preferred over and considered easier to use and less painful than syringes for self-administration of darbepoetin by chronic kidney disease patients, methotrexate and adalimumab for RA patients, and insulin for diabetes patients. Similarly, a study in healthy volunteers found that subcutaneous injection by autoinjector was preferred over syringe injection by a nurse.

A systematic review in 2013 found that treatment adherence to anti-TNF biologics in UC patients was only 52.7%. It also found that administration with a syringe vs a pen was a predictor of nonadherence. Although the SmartJect autoinjector might therefore be expected to improve adherence to golimumab, we did not assess adherence in this study.

**Conclusion**

This study showed that patients with UC generally prefer to administer golimumab with an autoinjector. Although this should help inform prescribers about what their patients may expect, they should be aware that some patients might still prefer using a prefilled syringe.

**Acknowledgments**

Medical writing was provided by Dr Phillip Leventhal (4Clinics, Paris, France) and funded by MSD Belgium. The study funder participated in designing the study; and collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the data; writing the report; and in the decision to submit it for publication.

**Author contributions**

S Vermeire participated in developing a first draft of the manuscript together with the medical writer. All authors contributed to patient recruitment, analysis and interpretation of the results, critical revision of the manuscript, and approval of the final version.

**Disclosure**

S Vermeire has received consulting fees from AbbVie, MSD, Takeda, Ferring, Genentech/Roche, Shire, Pfizer Inc, Galapagos, Mundipharma, Hospira, Celgene, Second Genome, and Janssen; research grants from AbbVie, MSD, and Takeda; and speaker fees from AbbVie, MSD, Takeda, Ferring, Dr Falk Pharma, Hospira, and Tillots. F Baert received research grants from AbbVie, Chiesi, MSD, and Ipsen, Roche; and speaker and consultancy fees from Abbvie, Hospira, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), MSD, Mundipharma, Falk, Ferring, and Takeda. O Dewit received research grants from Abbvie and MSD; consulting fees from Ferring, Mundipharma, Hospira, Takeda, and Janssen; and speaker fees from MSD, Ferring, Mundipharma, Hospira, and Takeda. P Van Hootegem received consultancy fees from Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) and Takeda; and speaker fees from Falk and Ferring. D Franchimont received honorarium fee for lectures; consulting fees and/or educational grants from Amgen, Pfizer, Mundipharma, AbbVie, MSD, Takeda, Ferring, Falk, Merck Serono, Roche and Janssen. E Louis has received grants from MSD and AbbVie; speaker fees from AbbVie, Ferring, MSD, Chiesi, Mitsubishi Pharma, Hospira, Janssen, and Takeda; and is on the advisory board of AbbVie, Ferring, MSD, Takeda, Mitsubishi Pharma, Celltrion, and Prometheus. The authors report no other conflicts of interest in this work.

**References**


Supplementary materials

Table S1 List of participating ethics committees

**UZ Leuven**
**Commissie Medische Ethiek**
Professor Minne Casteels
Herenstraat 49
B-3000 Leuven
Tel: 016 34 86 00 Fax 016 34 86 01
Email ec-submission@uzleuven.be

**UZ Gent**
**Commissie Medische Ethiek**
Professor Dirk Matthys
De Pintelaan 185
B-9000 Gent
Tel: 09 332 33 36 Fax 09 332 49 62
Email ethisch.comite@ugent.be

**AZ Groeninge, Campus Loofstraat**
**Commissie Medische Ethiek**
Dokter Peter Doulbel
Loofstraat 43
8500 Kortrijk
Tel: 056 63 50 72 Fax 056 63 50 57
Email ethisch.comite@azgroeninge.be

**AZ ST Jan Brugge**
**Commissie Medische Ethiek**
Doctor Ludo Vanopdenbossch
Ruddershove 10
8000 Brugge
Tel: 050 45 99 42 Fax 050 45 30 57
Email ethisch.comite@azsintjan.be

**UCL St Luc**
**Commission d’Ethique Biomédicale Hospitalo-Facultaire de l’UCL**
Professor J.M. Maloteaux
Avenue Hippocrate 55.14, Tour Harvey, niveau 0
1200 Bruxelles
Tel: 02 764 55 14 Fax 02 764 55 13
Email commission.ethique@md.ucl.ac.be

**AZ Genk, Campus St Jan**
**Comité Medische Ethiek**
Doctor Patrick Noyens
Schiepse Bos 6
3600 Genk
Tel: 089 32 16 02 Fax 089 32 79 00
Email ec-submission@zol.be

**AZ ST Jan Brugge**
**Commissie Medische Ethiek**
Doctor Ludo Vanopdenbossch
Ruddershove 10
8000 Brugge
Tel: 050 45 99 42 Fax 050 45 30 57
Email ethisch.comite@azsintjan.be

**CHC St Joseph Liège**
**Comité d’éthique médicale des cliniques St Joseph**
Doctor René Stevens
Rue de Hesbaye 75
4000 Liège
Tel: 04 224 89 90 Fax 04 229 89 92
Email rene.stevens@chc.be

**Hôpital Erasme**
**Comité d’Ethique**
Prof. Dr. André Herchuelz
route de Lennik 808
1070 Bruxelles
Tel: 02-555 37 07 Fax 02-555 46 20
Email comite.ethique@erasme.ulb.ac.be

(Continued)
### Table S1 (Continued)

**GHDC, Saint-Joseph, Charleroi**  
Comité d’Ethique Hospitalier, Grand Hospital de Charleroi  
Mrs Laurence Gillard  
Grand Rue 3  
6000 Charleroi  
Tel: 071 10 43 30 Fax 071 10 85 96  
Email dutroy.audrey@ghdc.be

**ZNA Jan Palfijn Antwerpen**  
Dr. P.P. De Deyn  
Commission voor Medische Ethiek ZNA  
ZNA Koningin Paola Kinderziekenhuis (P6- lokaal 617)  
Lindendreef 1,  
2020 Antwerpen  
Tel: 03/280.34.29 of 03/280.30.60  
Email ethische.commissie@zna.be

**Centre Hospitalier de Wallonie picarde – CHwapi A.S.B.L. Site Union**  
Dr. Luc Desplanque  
Comité d’Ethique  
39, Boulevard Lalaing  
7500 Tournai  
Tel: 069 33 17 56 Fax 069 25 86 54  
Email luc.desplanque@chwapi.be/nathalie.mac@chwapi.be

**Virga Jesse ziekenhuis, Hasselt**  
Dr. Koen Magerman  
Ethische Toetsingscommissie Virga Jesse  
Stadsomvaart 11  
3500 Hasselt  
Tel: 011/30.91.11 Fax 011/30.91.18  
Email ethische.toetsingscommissie@virgajesse.be

**CHR Peltzer La Tourelle**  
Dr. Hassan Kalantari  
Comité d’Ethique  
Rue du Parc 29  
4800 Verviers  
Tel: 087/21 21 71 Fax 087/21.21.39  
Email comite.ethique@chplt.be

**AZ Sint Maarten**  
Dr. J. Vander Sande  
Ethisch comité van vzw Emmaüs  
Edgard Tinellaaan 1c  
2800 Mechelen  
Tel: 015/44 67 21 Fax 015 44 67 10  
Email brigitte.van.looy@emmaus.be

**AZ Damiaan**  
Dr. Guy Fonteyn  
Ethisch Comité  
Gouwelozenstraat 100  
8400 Oostende  
Tel: 050 41 40 67 Fax 050 41 40 78  
Email mbrusselle@azdamiaan.be

**AZ St Lucas**  
Dr. Rob Schildermans  
Ethische Commissie  
AZ St Lucas Brugge  
Sint-Lucaslaan 29  
8310 Brugge  
Tel: +32 50 36 56 91 Fax +32 50 36 56 95  
Email nancy.vanavermaete@stlucas.be

### Table S2 (Continued)

<table>
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<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number included in the per-protocol analysis</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Age (years) | Mean (SD) 42.7 (14.4)  
Range 19.7–93.7 |
| Sex, n (%) | Male 54 (59.3)  
Female 37 (40.7) |
| Ethnicity, n (%) | White/Caucasian 89 (97.8)  
Other 2 (2.2) |
| Marital status, n (%) | Single 23 (25.3)  
Married/living together 67 (73.6)  
Widow 1 (1.1) |
| Highest education level, n (%) | Primary education 6 (6.6)  
Vocational secondary education 13 (14.3)  
Technical secondary education 13 (14.3)  
General secondary education – humanities 12 (13.2)  
Higher education (graduate/nonuniversity) 30 (33.0)  
Higher education (university) 17 (18.7) |
| Professional status, n (%) | Student 9 (9.9)  
Working full time 48 (52.7)  
Working part time 11 (12.1)  
Not working 23 (25.3) |
| Time since UC diagnosis (y) | Mean (SD) 8.6 (8.8)  
Range 0.0–38.1 |
| Most frequent concomitant conditions (≥3%), n (%) | Arthritis 4 (4.4)  
Arthralgia 4 (4.4)  
Psoriasis 3 (3.3)  
Primary sclerosing cholangitis 3 (3.3)  
Other 6 (6.6) |
| Previous exposure to anti-TNF, n (%) | Naive 76 (83.5)  
Experienced 15 (16.5) |
| Concomitant medications, n (%) | S-Aminosaliclyc acid 68 (74.7)  
Corticosteroids 59 (64.8)  
Azathioprine 37 (40.7)  
Other 2 (2.2) |
Table S2 (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Mayo score</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.8 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min, max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Mayo score categories, n (%)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 (7.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49 (55.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≥10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33 (37.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool frequency, n (%)</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1–2 stools more than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 (6.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3–4 stools more than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41 (45.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 or more stools more than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43 (47.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal bleeding, n (%)</td>
<td>No blood seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 (6.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Streaks of blood with stools less than half the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27 (30.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obvious blood with stool most of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37 (41.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blood alone passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician’s global assessment, n (%)</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mild disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 (4.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 (72.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 (23.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigmoidoscopic/endoscopic findings, n (%)</td>
<td>Normal or inactive disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mild disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54 (60.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34 (38.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: UC, ulcerative colitis; TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

Table S3 Treatment-emergent adverse events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse event</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Onset (time after injections)</th>
<th>Potentially related</th>
<th>Action taken</th>
<th>Resolution (time after onset)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injection-site hematoma</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>12 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection-site pain</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palpitations</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatulence</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Medication</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC flare</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Medication</td>
<td>2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral upper respiratory tract infection</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Medication</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot flushes</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhoidal hemorrhage</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9 days</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooth sensitivity</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parotid gland enlargement</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 days</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Echography</td>
<td>1 month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: UC, ulcerative colitis.