**Supplementary Table 1**

The comparison of secondary outcomes between two groups at each visit.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Index | Group | Baseline | M3 | M6 | M12 | PM0 VS M3 | PM0 VS M6 | PM0 VS M12 |
| TJC | ETN+MTX | 10.6±4.7 | 3.8±2.6 | 3.4±2.6 | 1.1±1.5 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 7.6±4.0 | 4.9±2.4 | 3.5±2.2 | 1.9±1.5 | 0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.023 | 0.139 | 0.820 | 0.075 |  |  |  |
| SJC | ETN+MTX | 8.2±5.0 | 2.2±2.1 | 2.0±2.3 | 0.8±1.5 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 6.0±4.2 | 3.1±2.8 | 2.4±2.4 | 1.4±1.2 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.107 | 0.203 | 0.552 | 0.173 |  |  |  |
| ESR (mm/h) | ETN+MTX | 61.0±42.0 | 27.6±22.6 | 21.6±12.4 | 15.4±9.9 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 57.6±36.0 | 38.0±26.1 | 29.9±21.9 | 20.5±7.9 | 0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.769 | 0.148 | 0.122 | 0.058 |  |  |  |
| CRP (mg/ L) | ETN+MTX | 42.2±41.4 | 10.2±11.9 | 10.8±11.8 | 7.1±5.6 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
|  | Control | 43.2±30.8 | 25.4±28.7 | 16.6±18.1 | 11.9±7.7 | 0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
|  | *p* value | 0.928 | 0.028 | 0.206 | 0.019 |  |  |  |
| Pain VAS | ETN+MTX | 6.5±1.8 | 3.5±1.8 | 2.8±1.6 | 1.3±1.2 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 6.5±1.4 | 5.2±1.3 | 4.2±1.1 | 2.7±0.8 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.861 | <0.001 | 0.001 | <0.001 |  |  |  |
| PGA | ETN+MTX | 6.5±1.9 | 3.6±1.8 | 2.8±1.6 | 1.3±1.4 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 6.8±1.2 | 5.4±1.2 | 4.1±1.1 | 2.7±1.0 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.552 | <0.001 | 0.003 | <0.001 |  |  |  |
| PhGA | ETN+MTX | 6.4±1.9 | 3.8±1.8 | 2.6±1.6 | 1.3±1.3 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 6.7±1.2 | 5.3±1.3 | 4.2±1.0 | 2.7±1.0 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.490 | 0.002 | <0.001 | <0.001 |  |  |  |
| HAQ-DI | ETN+MTX | 1.9±0.4 | 1.0±0.2 | 0.9±0.2 | 0.8±0.1 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 1.8±0.2 | 1.7±0.3 | 1.7±0.3 | 1.4±0.4 | 0.028 | 0.010 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.280 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |  |  |  |
| DAS28 (ESR) | ETN+MTX | 6.1±1.4 | 3.9±1.1 | 3.6±1.0 | 2.6±0.9 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 5.8±0.9 | 4.8±0.9 | 4.1±1.0 | 3.3±0.7 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.307 | 0.009 | 0.080 | 0.003 |  |  |  |
| DAS28 (CRP) | ETN+MTX | 5.4±1.0 | 3.5±0.9 | 3.3±1.0 | 2.4±0.8 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| Control | 5.3±0.8 | 4.3±0.8 | 3.7±0.9 | 3.1±0.8 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| *p* value | 0.491 | 0.002 | 0.142 | 0.006 |  |  |  |

Data were presented as mean value ± standard deviation. Comparison between two groups was determined by *t* test and comparison between each visit and baseline was determined by paired *t* test. *p* value <0.05 was considered significant. PM0 VS M3, third month vs baseline; PM0 VS M6, sixth month vs baseline ; PM0 VS M12, twelfth month vs baseline; M, month; ETN, etanercept; MTX , methotrexate; TJC, tender Joint Count; SJC, swollen Joint Count; CRP, C-reactive protein; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; VAS, Visual Analogue Scale; PGA, patient global assessment; PhGA, physician global assessment; HAQ-DI, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index; DAS28, disease activity score in 28 joints.