**Supplementary table.** Interventions, demographic characteristic and number of patients included in the trials.

| Study | Intervention | N | Mean age  (years) | Disease duration (years) | No. of swollen joints | No. of tender joints | CRP (mg/dL) | HAQ disability index (scale 0-3) | Kind of previous DMARD treatment |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Furst (18) | ADA + synthetic DMARD  vs.  Placebo + synthetic DMARD | 636 | 55 | 10 | 21 | 28 | 1.5 | 1.4 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Keystone (26) | ADA + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 619 | 56 | 11 | 19 | 28 | 1.8 | 1.5 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Van de Putte (19) | ADA  vs.  Placebo | 544 | 54 | 11 | 20 | 35 | 5.2 | 1.9 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Weinblatt (15) | ADA + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 336 | 57 | 12 | 17 | 28 | 2.6 | 1.6 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Miyasaka (20) | ADA  vs.  Placebo | 352 | 55 | 9 | 19 | 24 | 6.2 | 1.5 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Combe (21-22) | ETN + SSZ  vs.  placebo + SSZ | 245 | 52 | 6 | 19 | 31 | 1.6 | 1.6 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Moreland (23) | ETN  vs.  Placebo | 234 | 52 | 12 | 25 | 34 | 4.4 | 1.7 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Weinblatt (24) | ETN + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 89 | 51 | 13 | - | - | - | - | Synthetic DMARD |
| Maini (25) | IFX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 101 | 52 | 9 | 17 | 27 | 3.7 | 1.9 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Schiff (16) | IFX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 431 | 49 | 8 | 20 | 31 | 3.0 | 1.8 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Westhovens (26) | IFX + DMARD  vs.  Placebo + DMARD | 1084 | 53 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 1.4 | 1.5 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Lipsky (28) and Maini (27) | IFX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 426 | 54 | 9 | 19 | 28 | 3.1 | 1.8 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Taylor (29) | IFX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 24 | 53 | 1 | 9 | 16 | 1.9 | - | Synthetic DMARD |
| Edwards (38) | RTX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 161 | 54 | 12 | 21 | 32 | 3.1 | - | Synthetic DMARD |
| Emery (30) | RTX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 367 | 51 | 10 | 22 | 34 | 3.2 | 1.7 | Synthetic and biologic DMARDs |
| Emery (31) | RTX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 509 | 52 | 7 | 20 | 29 | - | - | Synthetic DMARD |
| Genovese (32) | TCZ + DMARD  vs.  Placebo + DMARD | 1220 | 54 | 10 | 19 | 30 | 2.6 | 1.5 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Kremer (14) | TCZ + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 1190 | 52 | 9 | 17 | 29 | 2.3 | 1.5 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Maini (33) | TCZ + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 359 | 51 | 0.9 | 12 | 16 | 2.8 | - | Synthetic DMARD |
| Smolen (34) | TCZ + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 623 | 51 | 8 | 20 | 32 | 2.5 | 1.6 | Synthetic DMARD |
| Nishimoto (35) | TCZ  vs.  DMARDs | 306 | 53 | 2 | 12 | 15 | 4.8 | - | Synthetic DMARD |
| Cohen (36) | RTX + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 520 | 53 | 12 | 23 | 33 | 3.8 | 1.9 | Anti-TNF |
| Emery (37) | TCZ + MTX  vs.  Placebo + MTX | 489 | 53 | 12 | 19 | 31 | 3.2 | 1.7 | Anti-TNF |
| Minimum and maximum values | - | - | 49-57 | 0.9-13 | 9-25 | 15-35 | 1.4-6.2 | 1.5-1.9 | - |

ADA: adalimumab; ETN: etanercept; IFX: infliximab; RTX: rituximab; TCZ: tocilizumab; MTX: methotrexate; SSZ: sulfasalazine; CRP: C-reactive protein; HAQ: Health assessment questionnaire; DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; Anti-TNF: anti-tumor necrosis factor α.