

Lay title: Risk of myocardial infarction (heart attack).

Full title: Relationship between exposure to tumour necrosis factor inhibitor therapy and incidence and severity of myocardial infarction in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

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It is known that people with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) have a higher chance of having a myocardial infarction (MI), commonly known as a heart attack. It is believed to perhaps be due to the chronic inflammation associated with RA.

Patients with RA are often treated with a type of drug called a TNFi (Tumour necrosis factor-alpha inhibitor) which targets parts of the cells in the body to reduce inflammation. This type of treatment is known as a “biologic” therapy, because of how it is made.

The BSRBR-RA researchers wanted to know if treatment with a TNFi would decrease the risk and severity of MIs, and looked at the following two groups:



It was discovered that patients treated with TNFi therapy were found to have around a 40% lower chance of having an MI compared with those on traditional DMARD therapy. No differences in MI severity were found.

Should you wish to read this scientific paper in full, the text can be found here:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28073800>

