

# Methotrexate- Hydroxychloroquine Methotrexate

\*, . \* . . . . .

Steinbrocker's classification stage I - III  
, stage IV .

가 7.5mg ,  
가 . 1.

가 ( ,  
, , , , , ,  
, ) 2. 가 , 가  
3.

가 4. 가

methotrexate(MTX) disease  
modifying antirheumatic drug(DMARD) 가

가 1), chrolo- 2.  
quine 가 2가

MTX- HCQ

MTX MTX  
MTX(5- 15 mg/week) HCQ(300-  
400 mg/day) 가  
3, 6 가 modified  
health assessment questionnaire(MHAQ)  
, morning stiffness(MS), pain  
visual analogue scale score(PVAS)  
, 가 physician's global assessment(PGA)  
Ery-  
throcyte sedimentation rate(ESR, Westergren's me-  
thod), C-reactive protein(CRP, fluorescent assay),  
Hematocrit, ,  
가 가 68

---

: 1998 2 2  
: 1996 11 25  
1997 1  
1996

66 가

가 paired unpaired  
 student's t-test 가 (p=0.298)(Table 3).  
 Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon Rank sum test  
 p<0.05 11.7 ± 2.84 4.2 ± 1.17  
 (p=0.008), MTX  
 8.0 ± 1.79 2.4 ± 0.62  
 (p=0.003).  
 1. : 58 가  
 MTX HCQ 26 , MTX (p=0.529).  
 32 .  
 Table 1 189.6 ± 29.68 56.6 ± 16.18  
 4 , (p=0.001), MTX  
 MTX 6 가 , 134.8 ± 23.93 65.8 ± 17.64  
 Table 2 (p=0.012).  
 가

**Table 1. Characteristics of patients**

	MTX+HCQ	MTX
Patient(n, completed study)	22	26
Sex(m/f)	2/20	8/18
Age(years)	38.9 ± 12.0	41.8 ± 12.4
Disease duration(months)	21.4 ± 16.4	16.2 ± 19.9
Positive rheumatoid factor(n)	22	26
MTX dose(mg/wk)	10.1 ± 1.2	10.4 ± 1.36
Prednisolone dose(mg/d)	3.1 ± 3.18	2.8 ± 3.40
Functional class		
I, II	9	10
III, IV	13	16
Anatomical stage		
I, II	16	19
III	6	7

**Table 2. Dropouts that occurred during the study**

MTX/HCQ(%)	3 patients(13.6)=insufficient efficacy 1 patient(0.5)=poor compliance
MTX alone(%)	3 patients(11.5)=insufficient efficacy 2 patients(7.7)=poor compliance 1 patient(3.8)=systemic illness

2. :  
 19.5 ± 3.28( ± )  
 7.8 ± 1.46 (p=0.001),  
 MTX 13.4 ± 2.22 mm/hr  
 3. : ESR  
 56.5 ± 6.79 mm/hr 27.1 ±  
 4.26 mm/hr (p=0.001), MTX  
 50.2 ± 5.61 mm/hr 31.1 ± 4.05  
 (p=0.004)

**Table 3. Comparison of mean values of clinical and laboratory parameters at baseline and 6 months**

	MTX+HCQ(n=22)			MTX(n=26)			Group difference
	mo 0	mo 6	p- value	mo 0	mo 6	p- value	
VAPS(1- 10)	6.5	3.8	<0.001	5.1	3.8	<0.05	0.047
MS(min)	189.6	56.6	<0.001	134.8	65.2	<0.05	NS
MHAQ(1- 4)	1.8	1.2	<0.001	1.7	1.4	<0.05	0.037
PGA(0- 10)	6.8	4.5	<0.05	5.9	3.6	<0.001	NS
TJC(0- 68)	19.5	7.8	<0.001	13.4	5.2	<0.05	NS
SJC(0- 66)	11.7	4.2	<0.05	8.0	2.4	<0.05	NS
ESR(mm/hr)	56.5	27.1	<0.001	50.2	31.1	<0.05	NS
CRP(mg/dl)	2.36	0.78	0.057	2.76	1.05	<0.05	NS

\* NS: not significant

**Table 4. Adverse effects reported during the study**

	MTX+HCQ(%)	MTX(%)
Stomatitis	1(4.5)	1(3.8)
Oral ulcer	4(18.2)	2(7.7)
GI trouble	4(18.2)	2(7.7)
Menstrual irregularity	1(4.5)	0
Elevated hepatic enzymes*	6(27.3)	11(42.3)

\* Elevated hepatic enzyme was defined by SGPT > 30 IU/L

ESR		(p=0.237).
CRP	0.8 ± 0.34 mg/dl	2.4 ± 0.77 mg/dl (p=0.057), MTX
	2.8 ± 0.68 mg/dl (p=0.028).	1.0 ± 0.34 mg/dl (p=0.091).
SGOT (AST)	12.3 IU/L	14.3 ± 0.99 IU/L (p=0.415), MTX
	15.2 ± 1.09 IU/L	20.5 ± 2.13 IU/L (p=0.023) MTX HCQ
SGOT	가	가
	가	가
SGPT	18.0 ± 3.14 IU/L (p=0.170), MTX	15.4 ± 2.76 IU/L (p=0.033).

(p=0.369).  
 4. : 17  
 (Table 4).  
 가  
 MTX DMARDs 가  
 ,  
 가 1, 3, 4).  
 dihydrofolate reductase thymidylate synthetase  
 5), adenosine  
 5), collagenolytic protease  
 6), , T  
 5). HCQ  
 4, 7, 8),  
 IL- 1  
 5). 가 가  
 가 Fries 9)  
 MTX HCQ  
 가 가 HCQ가  
 MTX , Ferraz  
 2) MTX Chloroquine  
 MTX  
 가 가  
 3

VAPS, , , ESR, CRP SGOT가 가 Fries 9)  
 VAPS, , SGOT 가  
 , MHAQ, PGA, ESR CRP가  
 , 3 (p=0.078). SGPT  
 가 가  
 6 가  
 , VAPS MHAQ가 41.5% , 33.3% SGPT가 30 IU/L  
 MTX 25.5% 17.6% 6/22, 11/26  
 (p=0.248), 60  
 가 IU/L 2 ,  
 가 6  
 . SGOT 30 IU/L  
 , SGOT가 가  
 55.5% MTX . MTX  
 30.4% 가  
 가  
 (p=0.105).  
 MTX  
 (SGPT )가 17 가 (6 ), 1996 5 1996 12  
 (6 ), (2 ) , 58  
 6 MTX HCQ MTX  
 MTX 가  
 SGOT SGPT가 가 , 21% 1. VAPS, , MHAQ, PGA,  
 88% 10, 11, 12, ESR  
 SGOT  
 13), Kremer 14) 2. MTX  
 MTX SGOT VAPS MHAQ가  
 가 , PGA,  
 Fries 9) HCQ MTX 가  
 , SGOT가 가 3.  
 HCQ가 lysozyme 16 가  
 가 4. SGOT SGPT MTX  
 . Ferraz 2) 가 가  
 HCQ chloroquine MTX 가  
 가 2 가 MTX/HCQ MTX  
 6 (34 ),  
 3 (34 ) 가  
 . MTX

= Abstract =

### Open Clinical Trial of Methotrexate Alone and Combination of Methotrexate and Hydroxychloroquine in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis

Chang-Ho Song, M.D.\*, Yong-Beom Park, M.D.  
 Bong-Ki Lee, M.D.\*, Won-Ki Lee, M.D.  
 Choong-Won Lee, M.D., Chang-Hee Suh, M.D.  
 Chan-Hee Lee, M.D., Jisoo Lee, M.D.  
 Soo-Kon Lee, M.D.

*Department of Internal Medicine, Wonju Medical college\*, Yonsei University, Wonju, Korea*  
*Department of Internal Medicine, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea*

**Objective :** To assess the relative efficacy of combination therapy of methotrexate(MTX) and hydroxychloroquine(HCQ) in rheumatoid arthritis, we performed an open clinical trial for 6 months.

**Methods :** We compared the efficacy of combination therapy of MTX(7.5-15mg/week) and HCQ(300-400mg/day) with that of MTX(7.5-15mg/week) alone. Twenty six and thirty two patients were allocated in each treatment arm. Disease activity was assessed by visual analogue pain scale(VAPS), duration of morning stiffness(MS), modified health assessment questionnaire (MHAQ), physician's global assessment(PGA), tender joint count(TJC), swollen joint count(SJC), ESR and CRP at 0, 3, 6 months. Adverse effects were monitored monthly.

**Results :** At the end of trial, all parameters were significantly decreased in both group except CRP in combination therapy group. But the extent of response was not significantly different between two groups except VAPS and MHAQ. Mean values of liver enzymes were significantly increased in MTX alone group, but incidence of hepatotoxicity and extent of elevated enzyme were not significantly different between two groups.

**Conclusion :** Both regimens were effective in the treatment of RA patients, but the efficacy of combination therapy was not superior to MTX alone.

**Key Words :** Rheumatoid arthritis, Methotrexate, Hydroxychloroquine

Marginal note : Combination therapy of methotrexate

and hydroxychloroquine in rheumatoid arthritis

### REFERENCES

- 1) Kremer JM: *Methotrexate update. Scand J Rheumatol* 25:341-344, 1996
- 2) Ferraz MB, Pinheiro GRC, Helfenstein M, Albuquerque E, Rezende C, Roimicher L, Brandao L, Silva SC, Pinheiro GC, Atra E: *Combination therapy with methotrexate and chloroquine in rheumatoid arthritis. Scand J Rheumatol* 23:231-236, 1994
- 3) Furst DE, Koehnke R, Burnmeister LF, Kohler J, Cargill I: *Increasing methotrexate effect with increasing dose in the treatment of resistant rheumatoid arthritis. J Rheumatol* 16:313-320, 1989
- 4) Felson DT, Anderson JJ, Meenan RF: *The comparative efficacy and toxicity of second line drugs in rheumatoid arthritis. Results of two metaanalyses. Arthritis Rheum* 33:1449-1461, 1990
- 5) Kremer JM: *The mechanism of action of methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis: The search continues. J Rheumatol* 21:1-5, 1994
- 6) Firestein GS, Paine MM, Boyle DL: *Mechanisms of methotrexate action in rheumatoid arthritis: Selective decrease in synovial collagenase gene expression. Arthritis Rheum* 37:193-200, 1994
- 7) Fries JF, Williams CA, Block DA: *The relative toxicity of disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Arthritis Rheum* 34:S54, 1991
- 8) Easterbrook M: *The ocular safety of hydroxychloroquine. Semin Arthritis Rheumatism* 23(S):62-67, 1993
- 9) Fries JF, Singh G, Lenert L, Furst DE: *Aspirin, hydroxychloroquine, and hepatic enzyme abnormalities with methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum* 33:1611-1619, 1990
- 10) Weinblatt ME, Coblyn JS, Fox DA, Fraser PA, Holdsworth DE, Glass DN, Trentham DE: *Efficacy of low-dose methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis. N Engl J Med* 312:818-822, 1985
- 11) Kremer JM, Lee JK: *The safety and efficacy of the use of methotrexate in long-term therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum* 29:822-831, 1986
- 12) Kremer JM, Lee JK: *A long-term prospective study of the use of methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis: Update after a mean of fifty-three months. Arthritis Rheum* 31:577-584, 1988
- 13) Kremer JM, Alarcon GS, Lightfoot RW, Wilkens RF, Furst DE, Williams HJ, Dent PB, Weinblatt ME: *Methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis: Suggested guidelines for monitoring liver toxicity. Arthritis*

*Rheum 37:316-328, 1994*

14) Kremer JM, Furst DE, Weinblatt ME, Blotner SD:  
*Significant changes in serum AST across hepatic*

*histological biopsy grades: An analysis of 3  
prospective cohorts on methotrexate therapy for  
rheumatoid arthritis. J Rheumatol 23:459-461, 1996*