

# NSAID er sjældent indiceret ved reumatoid arthritis – gennemgang af et Cochranereview

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Både methotrexat (MTX) og nonsteroid antiinflammatoriske lægemidler (NSAID) bruges ved inflammatoriske ledsygdomme, f.eks. reumatoid arthritis (RA). MTX er ofte førstevalgsmiddel, når man ønsker langsigtet at kontrollere den inflammatoriske proces og modvirke leddestruktioner, mens NSAID har en kortsigtet smertestillende effekt uden at påvirke sygdommens forløb eller prognose.

MTX er et cytostatikum med en række dosisafhængige bivirkninger, herunder knoglemarvsdepression, men den hyppigste alvorlige bivirkning ved reumatologisk anvendelse, akut hypersensitivitetspneumonitis, er dosisafhængig [1]. NSAID hæmmer enzymet cyklooxygenase og derved prostaglandinsyntesen.

Acetylsalicylsyre (ASA) i analgetisk dosering har samme virkningsmekanisme og plejer at henregnes til NSAID-gruppen. Paracetamol menes traditionelt at have en anden virkningsmekanisme, men nyere data tyder på, at også det påvirker dannelsen af prostaglandiner [2].

Er det problematisk at kombinere MTX og NSAID hos den samme patient? MTX udskilles overvejende renalt (80-90%), mens NSAID reducerer nyrefunktionen via hæmning af nyrenes prostaglandinsyntese. Ved højdosisbehandling med MTX, som primært bruges ved kræftsygdomme, mindsker NSAID *clearance* af MTX, og der er kasuistiske meddelelser om toksicitet af højdosis-MTX ved kombination med ibuprofen, indometacin, ketoprofen og naproxen [3].

Ved gigtssygdomme anvendes betydeligt lavere doser af MTX. Ifølge Interaktionsdatabasen kan kombinationer med NSAID anvendes, dog med visse forholdsregler for ibuprofen [3]. På medicin.dk angives, at interaktionen kun er klinisk relevant ved nedsat nyrefunktion [4].

Der er nu publiceret et Cochranereview, hvor man vurderer, om det er sikkert at supplere med NSAID, ASA og/eller paracetamol hos patienter, som i forvejen får MTX for en inflammatorisk ledsygdom [5]. Jeg vil her gennemgå og perspektivere dette Cochranereview.

## COCHRANEREVIEWETS METODE

Forfatterne udførte en systematisk litteratursøgning.

De inkluderede både randomiserede kliniske forsøg og ikke-randomiserede studier, hvor man sammenlignede bivirkninger af MTX alene med bivirkninger af MTX i kombination med NSAID, ASA eller paracetamol.

Patienterne skulle være mindst 18 år og skulle behandles med MTX for RA, psoriasisarthritis, mb. Bekhterev eller en anden spondylartropati. De primære effektmål var dels MTX-toksicitet målt som bivirkninger fra mave-tarm-system, lever, lunger, blod eller nyrer, dels behandlingsophør pga. bivirkninger.

## COCHRANEREVIEWETS RESULTATER OG KONKLUSION

Der kunne inkluderes 14 observationelle og tre randomiserede studier. Man fandt relevante studier vedr. brug af NSAID og ASA, men ikke vedr. brug af paracetamol.

Alle studier gjaldt RA, og den gennemsnitlige patient var en kvinde i 50'erne. MTX-dosis var kun 7,5-10 mg/uge i de fleste studier, mens doseringen af NSAID og ASA typisk ikke var angivet. Det var ikke muligt at udføre poolede analyser.

Der blev ikke overordnet fundet øget risiko for bivirkninger eller behandlingsophør, når MTX var kombineret med NSAID. Hvis NSAID blev indtaget samme dag som MTX, fandt man dog i et studie øget risiko for trombocytopeni.

ASA var associeret med øget risiko for både forhøjede serumkoncentrationer af leverenzymen og nedsat nyrefunktion, men ikke for MTX-induceret

## EVIDENSBASERET MEDICIN

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Nonsteroid antiinflammatoriske lægemidler bruges ved gigtssmerter, men er de farlige at kombinere med methotrexat?



## ABSTRACT

## Safety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, including aspirin and paracetamol (acetaminophen) in people receiving methotrexate for inflammatory arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, other spondyloarthritis)

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### BACKGROUND

Methotrexate is routinely used in the treatment of inflammatory arthritis. There have been concerns regarding the safety of using concurrent non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including aspirin, or paracetamol (acetaminophen), or both, in these people.

### OBJECTIVES

To systematically appraise and summarise the scientific evidence on the safety of using NSAIDs, including aspirin, or paracetamol, or both, with methotrexate in inflammatory arthritis; and to identify gaps in the current evidence, assess the implications of those gaps and to make recommendations for future research to address these deficiencies.

### SEARCH STRATEGY

We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (The Cochrane Library, second quarter 2010); MEDLINE (from 1950); EMBASE (from 1980); the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) and the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE). We also handsearched the conference proceedings for the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) (2008 to 2009) and checked the websites of regulatory agencies for reported adverse events, labels and warnings.

### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Two authors independently assessed the search results, extracted data and assessed the risk of bias of the included studies.

### MAIN RESULTS

Seventeen publications out of 8681 identified studies were included in the review, all of which included people with rheumatoid arthritis using various NSAIDs, including aspirin. There were no identified studies for other forms of inflammatory arthritis.

For NSAIDs, 13 studies were included that used concurrent NSAIDs, of which nine studies examined unspecified NSAIDs. The mean number of participants was 150.4 (range 19 to 315), mean duration 2182.9 (range 183 to 5490) days, although the study duration was not always clearly defined, and the studies were mainly of low to moderate quality. Two of these studies reported no evidence for increased risk of methotrexate-induced pulmonary disease; one study assessed the effect of concurrent NSAIDs on renal function and found no adverse effect; one study identified no adverse effect on liver function; three studies demonstrated no increase in methotrexate withdrawal; and one study showed no increase in all adverse events, including major toxic reactions. However, transient thrombocytopenia was demonstrated in one study, specifically when NSAIDs were taken on the same week day as methotrexate. This study was a retrospective review that involved small numbers only and was of moderate quality; these findings have not been replicated since.

Four studies looked at specific NSAIDs (etodolac, piroxicam, celecoxib and etoricoxib), with a mean number of participants of 25.8 (range 14 to 50) and mean study duration of 16.8 (range 14 to 23) days. These studies were mainly of moderate quality. The studies were primarily pharmacokinetic studies but also reported adverse events as secondary outcomes. There were no clinically significant adverse effects with concomitant piroxicam or etodolac; and only mild adverse events with celecoxib or etoricoxib, such as nausea and vomiting, and headaches.

For aspirin, seven studies provided data on adverse events with the use of aspirin and methotrexate. These studies included a mean number of participants of 100 (range 11 to 232), had a mean duration of 1325 (range 8 to 2928) days and were mainly of low to moderate quality. Two of the studies reported no evidence for increased risk of methotrexate-induced pulmonary disease and two studies showed no increase in all adverse events including major toxic reactions; however, none of these studies specified the dose of aspirin that was used. One study demonstrated that concurrent aspirin adversely affected liver function at a mean dose of 6.84 tablets of aspirin per day, which is a possible daily dose of 2.1 g presuming that 300 mg aspirin tablets were given. A further study described a partially reversible decline in renal function with 2 g daily of aspirin. One study reported no increase in adverse events with 975 mg aspirin daily, however the study duration was only one week. For paracetamol, no studies were identified for inclusion.

### LIMITATIONS

Randomised controlled trials and non-randomised studies comparing the safety of methotrexate alone to methotrexate with concurrent NSAIDs, including aspirin, or paracetamol, or both, in people with inflammatory arthritis.

### AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

In the management of rheumatoid arthritis, the concurrent use of NSAIDs with methotrexate appears to be safe provided appropriate monitoring is performed. The use of anti-inflammatory doses of aspirin should be avoided.

pneumonitis. Den fundne evidens vurderedes at være af lav til moderat kvalitet. Forfatterne konkluderede, at det virker sikkert at kombinere MTX og NSAID, hvis man løbende monitorerer for bivirkninger, men at anti-inflammatoriske doser af ASA sammen med MTX bør undgås.

### KOMMENTAR OG PERSPEKTIVERING

Det er vigtig og ny information, at MTX-behandlede patienter med gigt bør undgå ASA som smertestillende medicin. Det er i konflikt med Interaktionsdatabasen, hvor det godt nok angives, at clearance af MTX nedsættes med ca. 20%, men også, at interaktio-

nen næppe har klinisk betydning, så kombinationen kan anvendes [3].

Danske reumatologer ordinerer sjældent ASA som analgetikum, men formentlig er der mange patienter, som har gigt, der bruger receptfrie ASA-præparater, f.eks. Kodimagnyl. Fremover bør vi informere de patienter, som tager MTX, om, at det kan være uhen-sigtsmæssigt og øge risikoen for bivirkninger.

Vedr. risici ved at kombinere MTX og NSAID blev vi derimod ikke meget klogere. Ingen af de inklude-rede studier havde god kvalitet, og ingen havde klini-ske bivirkninger som primært effektmål. Doseringen af NSAID var ofte ikke angivet, og doseringen af MTX var betydelig lavere end de doser, der i dag er gængse. Det fremgår ikke, om ældre patienter og pa-tienter med nedsat nyrefunktion var inkluderet i stu-dierne. Det er især hos disse grupper, man kan for-vente klinisk betydende interaktioner med NSAID.

Præparatvalget og doseringen af NSAID har også betydning. Jo højere dosering, der gives, og jo læn-gere halveringstid NSAID-præparatet har, desto større risiko for nyrefunktionspåvirkning. MTX dose-res en gang pr. uge, absorberes hurtigt og har en plas-mahalveringstid på 3-10 timer, så hvis man undgår NSAID på dagen for MTX-indtagelse, kan man mind-ske risikoen for farmakokinetiske interaktioner.

MTX-behandlede patienter med RA kan således behandles med NSAID uden dokumenteret øget ri-siko for MTX-bivirkninger, men spørgsmålet er, om det er en god ide. NSAID har i sig selv en række alvor-lige bivirkninger, herunder blødende mavesår, hjer-te-svigt og nyresvigt, som bør begrænse anvendelsen [6]. Selv kortvarig behandling med NSAID øger risi-koen for myokardieinfarkt [7], hvilket patienter med RA i forvejen har en øget risiko for [8].

Uanset interaktionen med MTX bør anvendelsen af NSAID ved RA efter min mening begrænses. Hvis smerten er forårsaget af inflammatorisk aktivitet, er lavdosisprednisolon eller lokale steroidinjektioner et bedre alternativ, som ud over at lindre smerter effek-tivt modvirker leddestruktioner [9]. Hvis smerten er forårsaget af kroniske fejlstillinger og leddestruk-tioner, er paracetamol evt. med tillæg af opioid et mere logisk behandlingsvalg [10].

Ved psoriasisarthritis og mb. Bekhterev er NSAID derimod ofte velindiceret og kan således kombineres med MTX, hvis man løbende monitorerer for bivirk-ninger.

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