

## Supplementary material

**Supplementary Table S1.** Patients' baseline characteristics.

Characteristics	Baseline	Source
HAQ, mean (SD)	1.6 (0.6)	(1)
Age (years), mean (SD)	50 (13.4)	(1)
Female proportion (%)	83	(1)
RA duration (years), mean (SD)	7.9 (8)	(1)

HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire. RA: rheumatoid arthritis

**Supplementary Table S2.** Characteristics of clinical studies included.

Author	Publication year	Treatment	Patient number	Follow up, months (median)	Age, years (mean)	RA duration, years (mean)	HAQ (mean)
Fleischmann (1)	2017	Tofacitinib (5 mg/d)	376	12	50	5.4	1.6
		Adalimumab (40 mg/2 weeks)	386	12	50.7	6	1.6
Ytterberg (2)	2022	Tofacitinib (5 mg/d)	1455	44.7	60.8	10.4	1.6
		Etanercept (50 mg/w) or Adalimumab (40 mg/2w)	1451	44	61.3	10.4	1.6
Emery (3)	2008	Tocilizumab (8 mg/kg/4w)	170	6	53.9	12.6	1.7
Kremer (4)	2016	Tocilizumab (8 mg/kg/4w)	399	43.2	51.9	9.6	1.5
Genovese (5)	2005	Abatacept (10 mg/kg/4w)	258	6	53.4	12.2	1.8
Genovese (6)	2012	Abatacept (10 mg/kg/4w)	218	43.4	53.1	12.1	1.8
Cohen (7)	2006	Rituximab (1000 mg) repeated treatment based on clinical treatment	308	56.3	52.2	12.1	1.9

**Supplementary Table S3.** Hazard ratio of death according to HAQ score, according to Michaud *et al.* (8).

HAQ	Hazard ratio (IC 95%)
0.00	1.0
0.125–0.375	1.4 (1.1, 1.8)
0.500–0.875	1.5 (1.2, 1.9)
1.000–1.375	1.8 (1.4, 2.2)
1.500–1.875	2.7 (2.2, 3.5)
2.000–2.375	4.0 (3.1, 5.2)
2.500–3.000	5.5 (3.9, 7.7)

**Supplementary Table S4.** Time (in years) by state.

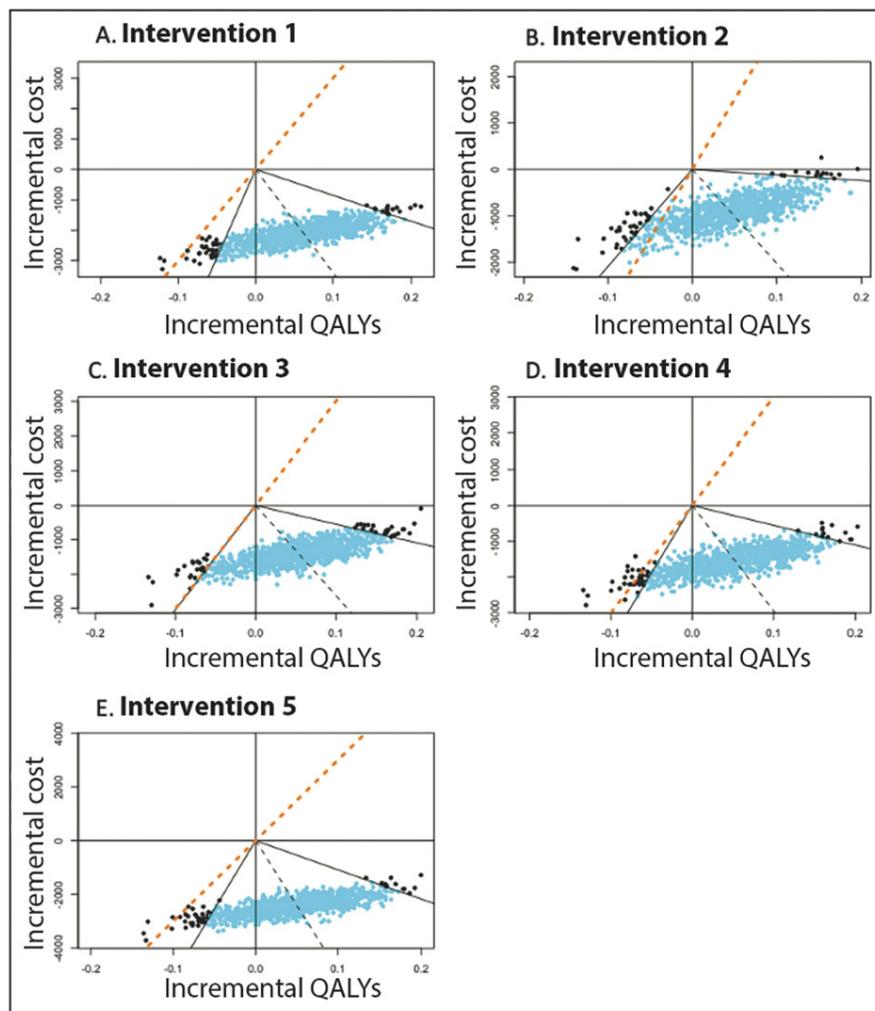
Sequence	Reference	Intervention	Intervention	Intervention	Intervention	Intervention
		1	2	3	4	5
Death	18.1	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.8
Palliative Care	14.3	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
Treatment*	12.6	15.4	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5
Tofacitinib	0.0	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.8
TNFi	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Tocilizumab	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6
Abatacept	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8
Rituximab	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3

\* corresponds to the sum of time spent under treatment.

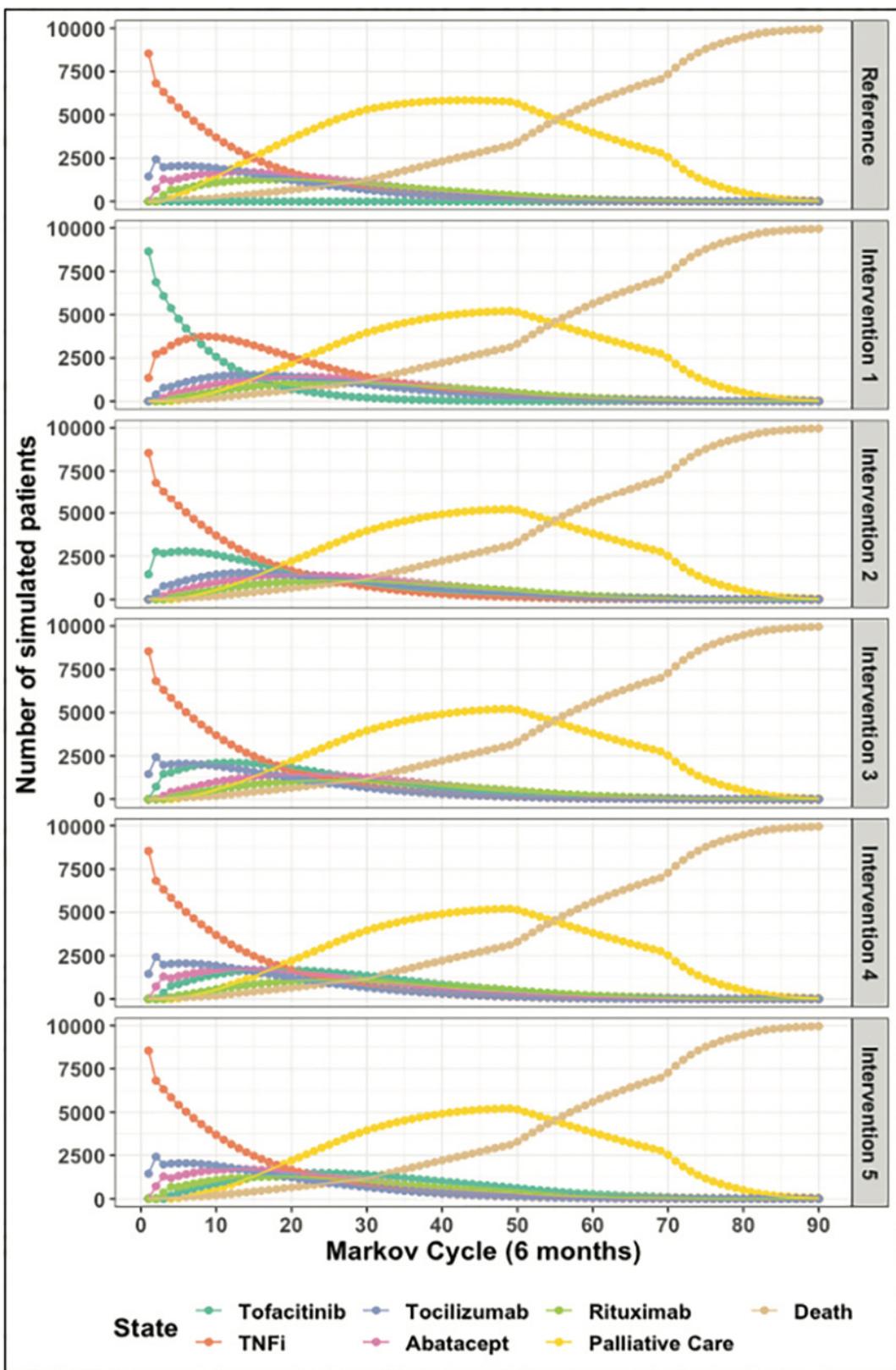
Supplementary Table S5. Numeric data from the deterministic sensitivity analysis.

Parameters	Value	Reference		Intervention 1		Intervention 2		Intervention 3		Intervention 4		Intervention 5	
		Cost (€)	QALY										
Day hospitalization	297.670 446.510	206547 207560	8.80 8.80	204942 205808	9.09 9.09	205265 206131	9.10 9.10	205819 206685	9.09 9.09	206464 207331	9.08 9.08	206056 207069	9.07 9.07
Discontinuation probability first cycle - Abatacept	0.435 0.557	207464 206643	8.82 8.78	205748 205002	9.11 9.07	206072 205325	9.12 9.08	206625 205878	9.11 9.07	207337 206458	9.10 9.06	207003 206122	9.09 9.05
Discontinuation probability first cycle - Rituximab	0.433 0.547	206745 207362	8.81 8.79	205121 205628	9.10 9.07	205445 205952	9.11 9.09	205998 206505	9.10 9.08	206644 207151	9.09 9.07	206279 206846	9.08 9.06
Discontinuation probability first cycle - Tocilizumab	0.425 0.575	207425 206682	8.82 8.78	205711 205039	9.10 9.07	206034 205362	9.11 9.08	206656 205847	9.10 9.07	207301 206494	9.10 9.07	206968 206158	9.09 9.06
Discontinuation probability first cycle (<61 years) - TNFi	0.246 0.336	207166 206935	8.83 8.77	205484 205260	9.11 9.06	205840 205549	9.12 9.07	206394 206102	9.11 9.06	207038 206749	9.11 9.06	206705 206412	9.10 9.05
Discontinuation probability first cycle (<61 years) - Tofacitinib	0.225 0.315	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205278 205475	9.10 9.07	205631 205768	9.11 9.08	206213 206291	9.10 9.07	206893 206902	9.10 9.07	206541 206585	9.09 9.06
Discontinuation probability first cycle (>61 years) - TNFi	0.267 0.314	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205375 205375	9.09 9.09	205698 205698	9.10 9.10	206252 206252	9.09 9.09	206898 206898	9.08 9.08	206563 206563	9.07 9.07
Discontinuation probability first cycle (>61 years) - Tofacitinib	0.264 0.311	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205375 205375	9.09 9.09	205698 205698	9.10 9.10	206252 206252	9.09 9.09	206898 206898	9.08 9.08	206563 206563	9.07 9.07
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles - Abatacept	0.075 0.107	207601 206583	8.83 8.78	205838 204971	9.11 9.07	206161 205294	9.12 9.08	206715 205847	9.11 9.07	207460 206411	9.10 9.06	207125 206075	9.10 9.05
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles - Rituximab	0.099 0.123	206815 207273	8.81 8.79	205178 205557	9.10 9.08	205501 205880	9.11 9.09	206054 206434	9.10 9.08	206700 207080	9.09 9.07	206334 206772	9.08 9.06
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles - Tocilizumab	0.099 0.113	207205 206910	8.81 8.79	205502 205254	9.09 9.08	205825 205577	9.10 9.09	206411 206101	9.09 9.08	207055 206748	9.09 9.08	206720 206413	9.08 9.07
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles (<61 years) - TNFi	0.491 0.558	207201 206915	8.83 8.77	205497 205259	9.11 9.06	205869 205539	9.12 9.07	206418 206095	9.11 9.06	207058 206745	9.11 9.06	206724 206410	9.10 9.05
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles (>61 years) - Tofacitinib	0.674 0.727	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205277 205467	9.10 9.07	205636 205756	9.11 9.08	206224 206278	9.10 9.07	206909 206888	9.10 9.07	206554 206572	9.09 9.06
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles (>61 ans) - TNFi	0.821 0.859	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205375 205375	9.09 9.09	205698 205698	9.10 9.10	206252 206252	9.09 9.09	206898 206898	9.08 9.08	206563 206563	9.07 9.07
Discontinuation probability subsequent cycles (>61 ans) - Tofacitinib	0.813 0.852	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205375 205375	9.09 9.09	205698 205698	9.10 9.10	206252 206252	9.09 9.09	206898 206898	9.08 9.08	206563 206563	9.07 9.07
Discount rate	0.000 0.023	290994 164297	12.00 7.13	290070 162315	12.39 7.36	290156 162774	12.41 7.37	290561 163402	12.41 7.35	291079 164092	12.41 7.35	290892 163712	12.40 7.34
Drug acquisition cost - Abatacept	3222.490 5370.820	197653 207053	8.80 8.80	197261 205375	9.09 9.09	197582 205698	9.10 9.10	198130 206252	9.09 9.09	197497 206898	9.08 9.08	197162 206563	9.07 9.07
Drug acquisition cost - Methotrexate	26.240 31.490	206803 207003	8.80 8.80	205123 205325	9.09 9.09	205446 205648	9.10 9.10	205999 206201	9.09 9.09	206645 206847	9.08 9.08	206310 206512	9.07 9.07
Drug acquisition cost - Rituximab	2117.930 2823.910	204650 207053	8.80 8.80	203323 205375	9.09 9.09	203646 205698	9.10 9.10	204198 206252	9.09 9.09	204843 206898	9.08 9.08	204159 206563	9.07 9.07
Drug acquisition cost - TNFi	3702.830 4937.110	174801 207053	8.80 8.80	178460 205375	9.09 9.09	178112 205698	9.10 9.10	178660 206252	9.09 9.09	179302 206898	9.08 9.08	178953 206563	9.07 9.07
Drug acquisition cost - Tocilizumab	3222.490 5370.820	197756 207053	8.80 8.80	197240 205375	9.09 9.09	197561 205698	9.10 9.10	196954 206252	9.09 9.09	197600 206898	9.08 9.08	197265 206563	9.07 9.07
Drug acquisition cost - Tofacitinib	2674.200 4457.000	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	194357 205375	9.09 9.09	195643 205698	9.10 9.10	197152 206252	9.09 9.09	198851 206898	9.08 9.08	199395 206563	9.07 9.07
HAQ changes first cycle - Abatacept	-0.446 -0.454	207053 207072	8.80 8.80	205375 205404	9.08 9.09	205698 205727	9.10 9.10	206252 206281	9.09 9.09	206898 206917	9.08 9.09	206563 206581	9.07 9.08
HAQ changes first cycle - Palliative Care	-0.149 -0.251	206245 207847	8.60 9.00	204804 205889	8.93 9.24	205127 206212	8.95 9.25	205679 206766	8.94 9.24	206325 207412	8.93 9.23	205989 207077	8.92
HAQ changes first cycle - Rituximab	-0.331 -0.469	206835 207149	8.75 8.85	205114 205506	9.04 9.13	205437 205829	9.05 9.14	205991 206383	9.04 9.13	206637 207029	9.04 9.12	206344 206658	9.02 9.12
HAQ changes first cycle - Tocilizumab	-0.386 -0.394	207053 207062	8.80 8.80	205375 205390	9.08 9.09	205698 205713	9.10 9.10	206252 206260	9.09 9.09	206898 206906	9.08 9.09	206563 206571	9.07 9.08
HAQ changes first cycle (<61 years) - TNFi	-0.536 -0.544	207053 207053	8.80 8.81	205375 205375	9.08 9.09	205698 205698	9.09 9.10	206252 206252	9.08 9.09	206898 206898	9.08 9.09	206563 206563	9.07 9.08
HAQ changes first cycle (<61 years) - Tofacitinib	-0.516 -0.524	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205375 205375	9.08 9.09	205698 205698	9.10 9.10	206252 206252	9.09 9.09	206898 206898	9.08 9.08	206563 206563	9.07 9.07
HAQ changes first cycle (>61 years) - TNFi	-0.458 -0.462	207053 207061	8.80 8.80	205375 205391	9.09 9.09	205698 205705	9.10 9.10	206252 206259	9.09 9.09	206898 206905	9.08 9.08	206563 206570	9.07 9.07
HAQ changes first cycle (>61 years) - Tofacitinib	-0.498 -0.502	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205375 205375	9.09 9.09	205698 205703	9.10 9.10	206252 206260	9.09 9.09	206898 206910	9.08 9.08	206563 206581	9.07 9.07

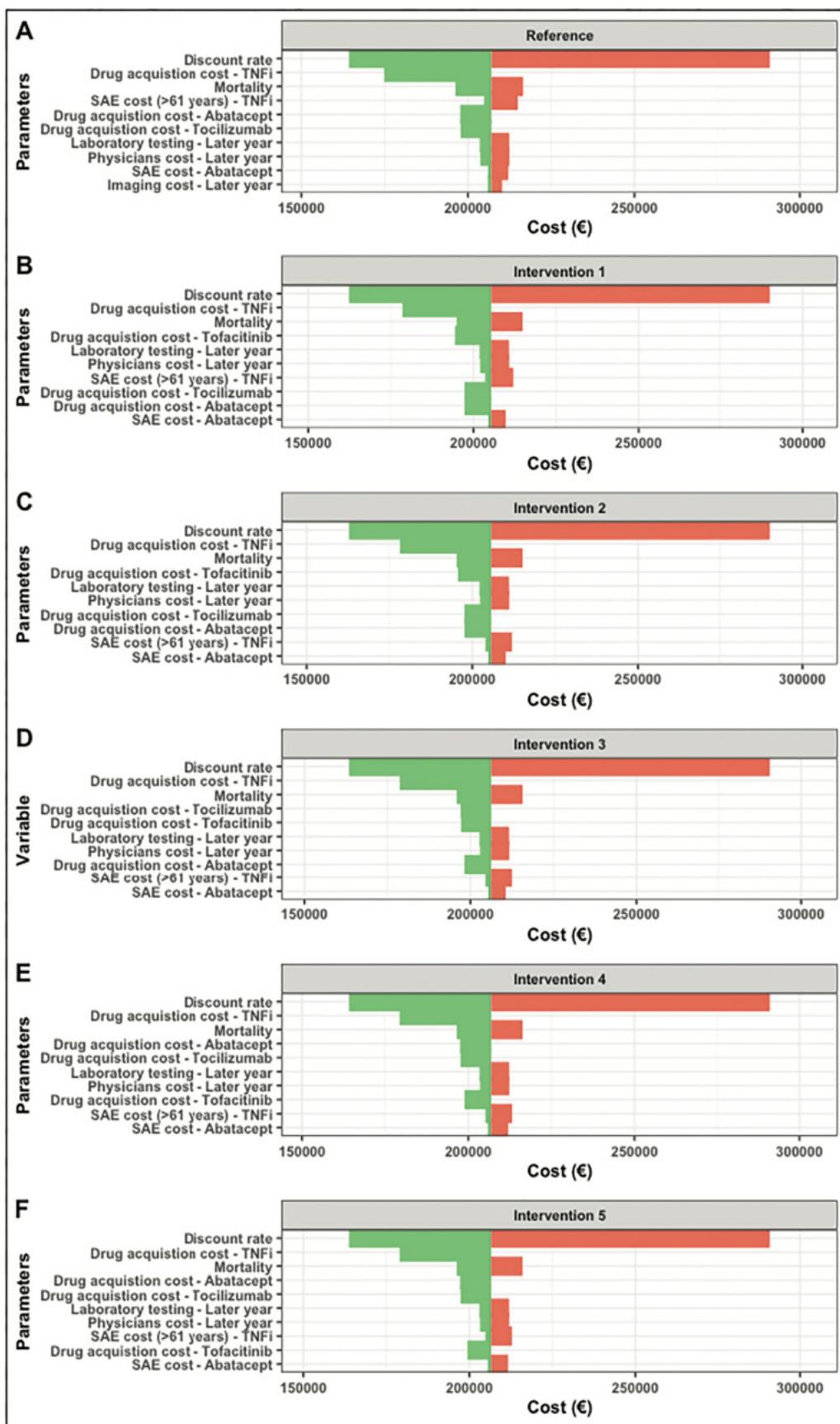
Parameters	Value	Reference		Intervention 1		Intervention 2		Intervention 3		Intervention 4		Intervention 5	
		Cost (€)	QALY										
Imaging cost - First year	2.368 75.784	207008 207153	8.80 8.80	205329 205475	9.09 9.09	205652 205798	9.10 9.10	206206 206351	9.09 9.09	206852 206997	9.08 9.08	206517 206662	9.07 9.07
Imaging cost - Later year	0.649 120.016	205935 210263	8.80 8.80	204250 208603	9.09 9.09	204573 208927	9.10 9.10	205126 209482	9.09 9.09	205771 210128	9.08 9.08	205436 209795	9.07 9.07
Laboratory testing - First year	278.645 42.795	207339 206872	8.80 8.80	205661 205193	9.09 9.09	205984 205516	9.10 9.10	206538 206070	9.09 9.09	207183 206716	9.08 9.08	206849 206381	9.07 9.07
Laboratory testing - Later year	298.511 54.314	212383 203530	8.80 8.80	210737 201830	9.09 9.09	211061 202153	9.10 9.10	211616 202705	9.09 9.09	212264 203350	9.08 9.08	211930 203014	9.07 9.07
Mortality	High Low	196250 216558	8.42 9.14	194900 214850	8.71 9.43	195249 215155	8.72 9.44	195835 215691	8.71 9.43	196511 216317	8.70 9.43	196174 216000	8.70 9.42
Physicians cost - First year	254.680 27.801	207336 206886	8.80 8.80	205658 205208	9.09 9.09	205981 205531	9.10 9.10	206535 206085	9.09 9.09	207181 206730	9.08 9.08	206846 206396	9.07 9.07
Physicians cost - Later year	282.708 41.260	212427 203673	8.80 8.80	210781 201974	9.09 9.09	211105 202297	9.10 9.10	211660 202849	9.09 9.09	212307 203494	9.08 9.08	211974 203158	9.07 9.07
SAE cost - Abatacept	0.383 18727.134	205988 212097	8.80 8.80	204455 209728	9.09 9.09	204778 210052	9.10 9.10	205331 210609	9.09 9.09	205832 211941	9.08 9.08	205497 211606	9.07 9.07
SAE cost - Rituximab	10131.012 224.324	208705 206339	8.80 8.80	206785 204765	9.09 9.09	207109 205088	9.10 9.10	207663 205641	9.09 9.09	208310 206286	9.08 9.08	208214 205848	9.07 9.07
SAE cost - Tocilizumab	12741.153 96.235	208648 206472	8.80 8.80	206770 204866	9.09 9.09	207093 205189	9.10 9.10	207846 205670	9.09 9.09	208492 206316	9.08 9.08	208157 205981	9.07 9.07
SAE cost (<61 years) - TNFi	11430.951 235.200	209540 205991	8.80 8.80	207367 204524	9.09 9.09	208185 204636	9.10 9.10	208739 205189	9.09 9.09	209384 205835	9.08 9.08	209050 205500	9.07 9.07
SAE cost (<61 years) - Tofacitinib	14766.027 24.996	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	208154 204536	9.09 9.09	207772 205072	9.10 9.10	207841 205772	9.09 9.09	208016 206560	9.08 9.08	207340 206328	9.07 9.07
SAE cost (>61 years) - TNFi	15.354 15201.397	204788 214985	8.80 8.80	203482 212000	9.09 9.09	203917 211934	9.10 9.10	204470 212489	9.09 9.09	205115 213136	9.08 9.08	204779 212806	9.07 9.07
SAE cost (>61 years) - Tofacitinib	119.861 12183.434	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205337 205475	9.09 9.09	205535 206127	9.10 9.10	206025 206850	9.09 9.09	206617 207636	9.08 9.08	206252 207382	9.07 9.07
SAE probability - Abatacept	0.063 0.087	206888 207231	8.80 8.80	205232 205529	9.09 9.09	205556 205852	9.10 9.10	206109 206405	9.09 9.09	206732 207075	9.08 9.08	206398 206741	9.07 9.07
SAE probability - Rituximab	0.062 0.080	206960 207156	8.80 8.80	205295 205462	9.09 9.09	205618 205785	9.10 9.10	206171 206339	9.09 9.09	206817 206985	9.08 9.08	206469 206665	9.07 9.07
SAE probability - Tocilizumab	0.035 0.045	206985 207126	8.80 8.80	205315 205439	9.09 9.09	205638 205762	9.10 9.10	206183 206324	9.09 9.09	206829 206970	9.08 9.08	206494 206635	9.07 9.07
SAE probability (<61 years) - TNFi	0.070 0.083	206793 207068	8.80 8.80	205189 205385	9.09 9.09	205475 205710	9.10 9.10	206029 206264	9.09 9.09	206675 206910	9.08 9.08	206340 206575	9.07 9.07
SAE probability (<61 years) - Tofacitinib	0.068 0.083	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205235 205388	9.09 9.09	205594 205708	9.10 9.10	206172 206259	9.09 9.09	206841 206903	9.08 9.08	206523 206566	9.07 9.07
SAE probability (>61 years) - TNFi	0.190 0.232	206861 207257	8.80 8.80	205197 205563	9.09 9.09	205533 205873	9.10 9.10	206086 206427	9.09 9.09	206732 207073	9.08 9.08	206397 206738	9.07 9.07
SAE probability (>61 years) - Tofacitinib	0.220 0.264	207053 207053	8.80 8.80	205371 205379	9.09 9.09	205681 205716	9.10 9.10	206228 206276	9.09 9.09	206868 206928	9.08 9.08	206530 206597	9.07 9.07

**Supplementary Fig. S1.** Scatter plot on the cost-effectiveness plane of “bootstrapped”.

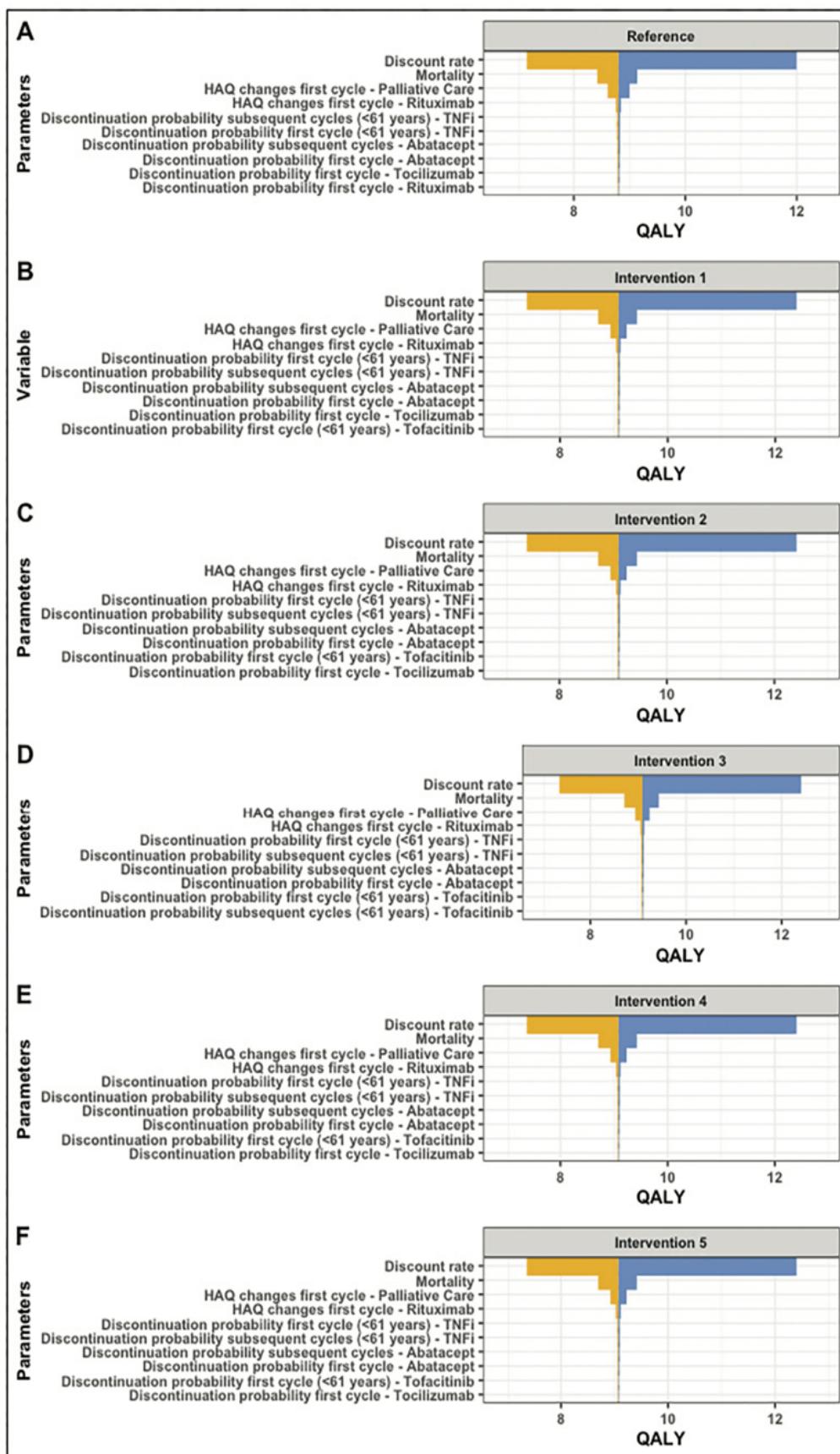
Each point represents a sample generated by the bootstrap method. Blue points are within the 95% confidence interval (represented by solid lines). The black dashed line represents the center of the confidence interval. The orange dashed line represents the threshold of acceptability at €30,000 per QALY.



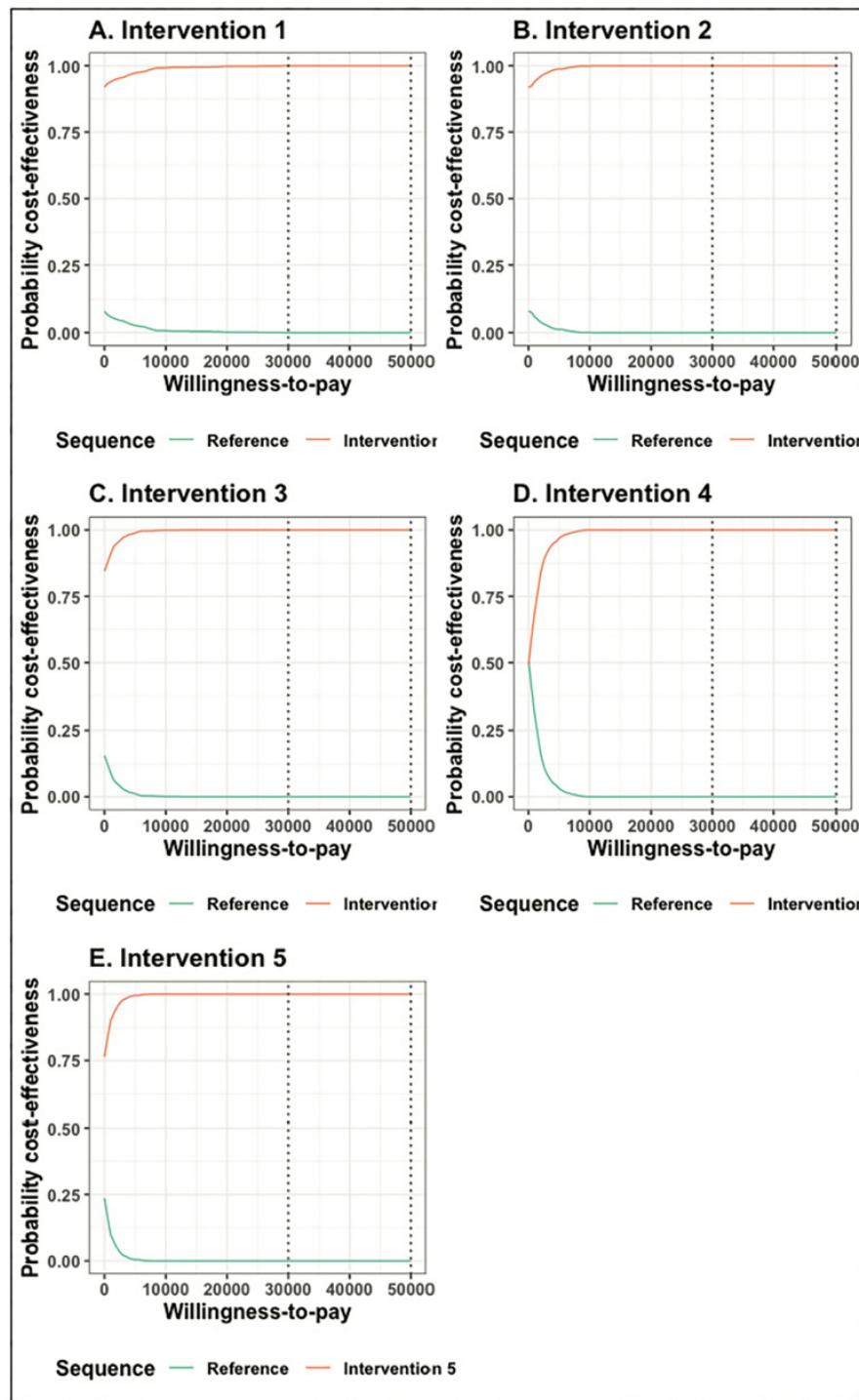
**Supplementary Fig. S2.** Evolution of the cohort by state. TNFi: tumour necrosis factor inhibitor



**Supplementary Fig. S3.** Tornado graph of one-way sensitivity analysis on the 10 parameters influencing most the costs (€). Green bars represent a decrease in costs, red bars represent an increase in costs. SAE: serious adverse event.



**Supplementary Fig. S4.** Tornado graph of one-way sensitivity analysis on the 10 variables influencing most the Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALY). Blue bars represent an increase in QALYs, yellow bars represent a decrease in QALYs.



Supplementary Fig. S5. Cost-effective acceptability curve

**References**

- FLEISCHMANN R, MYSLER E, HALL S *et al.*: ORAL STRATEGY INVESTIGATORS: Efficacy and safety of tofacitinib monotherapy, tofacitinib with methotrexate, and adalimumab with methotrexate in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (ORAL Strategy): a phase 3b/4, double-blind, head-to-head, randomised controlled trial. *Lancet* 2017; 390(10093): 457-68. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(17\)31618-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(17)31618-5)
- YTTERBERG SR, BHATT DL, MIKULS TR *et al.*: Cardiovascular and cancer risk with tofacitinib in rheumatoid arthritis. *N Engl J Med* 2022; 386(4): 316-26. <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa2109927>
- EMERY P, KEYSTONE E, TONY HP *et al.*: IL-6 receptor inhibition with tocilizumab improves treatment outcomes in patients with rheumatoid arthritis refractory to anti-tumour necrosis factor biologicals: results from a 24-week multicentre randomised placebo-controlled trial. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2008; 67(11): 1516-23. <https://doi.org/10.1136/ard.2008.092932>
- KREMER JM, BLANCO R, HALLAND AM *et al.*: Clinical efficacy and safety maintained up to 5 years in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with tocilizumab in a randomised trial. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2016; 34(4): 625-33.
- GENOVESE MC, BECKER JC, SCHIFF M *et al.*: Abatacept for rheumatoid arthritis refractory to tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibition. *N Engl J Med* 2005; 353(11): 1114-23. <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa050524>
- GENOVESE MC, SCHIFF M, LUGGEN M *et al.*: Longterm safety and efficacy of abatacept through 5 years of treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and an inadequate response to tumor necrosis factor inhibitor therapy. *J Rheumatol* 2012; 39(8): 1546-54. <https://doi.org/10.3899/jrheum.111531>
- COHEN SB, EMERY P, GREENWALD MW *et al.*: REFLEX TRIAL GROUP: Rituximab for rheumatoid arthritis refractory to anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy: Results of a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III trial evaluating primary efficacy and safety at twenty-four weeks. *Arthritis Rheum* 2006; 54(9): 2793-806. <https://doi.org/10.1002/art.22025>
- MICHAUD K, VERA-LLOCH M, OSTER G: Mortality risk by functional status and health-related quality of life in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *J Rheumatol* 2012; 39(1): 54-59. <https://doi.org/10.3899/jrheum.110491>