

Reply to Dr Boers' letter

Sir,

The communication by Boers reacts to my reply to Dr Yazici (1), who claimed that some secondary outcomes in the paper Anakinra for Colchicine-Resistant Familial Mediterranean Fever... (2) might be type 1 error (related to the finding that anakinra suppresses FMF-joint attacks $p=0.019$) and type 2 error, (related to the finding that anakinra did not suppress the abdominal attacks $p=0.38$). At that time, I thought that one must view the null hypothesis, before suggesting type 1 or type 2 errors (because type 1 and type 2 errors rely on the null hypothesis), but I was wrong. Statistical inference always bears the possibility that the conclusion might be incorrect. The whole idea behind the p -value is to determine the level of error if the null hypothesis is correct. In this respect, Dr. Yazici's claim is not different from

a general notion that despite the significance or insignificance of the p -value, there is still room for possible inference mistake. The same concern applies for any new drug or device tested for performance, founding its effectiveness based on the p -value obtained from the test, and submitted for regulatory approval. I do not see any reason to discuss this matter specifically for the anakinra paper.

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References

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2. BEN-ZVI I, KUKUY O, GIAT E *et al.*: Anakinra for Colchicine-Resistant Familial Mediterranean Fever: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial. *Arthritis Rheumatol* 2017; 69: 854-62.