

Supplementary Table 1. Patients' Characteristics

| | All patients | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| N | 137 | |
| Female, n (%) | 108 | (78.8) |
| Age [*] | 54 | (22-85) |
| Disease duration, months [*] | 63.8 | (3-619) |
| Steinbrocker's STAGE III/IV, n (%) | 62 | (45.3) |
| MTX use, n (%) | 95 | (69.3) |
| Bucillamine use, n (%) | 12 | (8.7) |
| Salazosulfapyridine use, n (%) | 25 | (18.2) |
| Tacrolimus use, n (%) | 13 | (9.4) |
| Biologics use, n (%) | 36 | (26.3) |
| Steroid use, n (%) | 48 | (35.0) |
| RF positive, n (%) | 78 | (56.9) |
| MMP-3 positive, n (%) | 90 | (65.7) |
| DAS [*] | 3.5 | (0.4-8.2) |
| CDAI [*] | 13 | (0-56) |
| SDAI [*] | 14 | (0-63.5) |
| DAS remission (<2.6), n (%) | 37 | (27) |
| CDAI remission (≤ 2.8), n (%) | 22 | (16) |
| SDAI remission (≤ 3.3), n (%) | 25 | (18.2) |

*Median (range).

MTX, methotrexate; MMP-3, matrix metalloproteinase-3; DAS, disease activity score in 28 joints;

CDAI, clinical disease activity index; SDAI, simplified disease activity index