Brief Report: Inhibition of interleukin-6 function corrects Th17/Treg cell imbalance in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.
Maxime Samson, Sylvain Audia, Nona Janikashvili, Marion Ciudad, Malika Trad, Jennifer Fraszczak, Paul Ornetti, Jean-Francis Maillefert, Pierre Miossec, Bernard Bonnotte

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Figure 1: Circulating Th17 are increased in RA patients whereas Treg are decreased but functional. A, B: Flow cytometry analysis of Th17 (CD4^+IL-17^+), Th1 (CD4^+IL-17^-IFN-γ^+), and Treg (CD4^+CD25^highFoxp3^+) cells in RA patients (n=15) and healthy subjects (n=17). C: Functional analysis of Treg (CD4^+CD25^high). The proliferation index was measured with the ModFit LT^TM^ 3.0 software. The percentage of inhibition was calculated using the proliferation index of stimulated T effectors without Treg as reference. Percentages of inhibition were compared ratio to ratio. Active RA patients (n=6), TCZ treated RA (n=3) and healthy controls (n=6). D: Th17/Treg ratio. RA patients (n=15), healthy subjects (n=17). The Mann Whitney U test (Kruskall-Wallis test for 1C) was used for statistical analysis. NS: not statistically significant. Whiskers are as follow: the median (horizontal bar), the IQ range (box) and the extreme values (error bars).