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Brief Report: Inhibition of interleukin-6 function corrects Th17/Treg cell imbalance in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

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► To cite this version:

Maxime Samson, Sylvain Audia, Nona Janikashvili, Marion Ciudad, Malika Trad, et al.. Brief Report: Inhibition of interleukin-6 function corrects Th17/Treg cell imbalance in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.: modulation of the Th17/Treg balance with anti-IL-6R. *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, 2012, 64 (8), pp.2499-503. 10.1002/art.34477 . inserm-00691908

HAL Id: inserm-00691908

<https://inserm.hal.science/inserm-00691908>

Submitted on 5 Apr 2013

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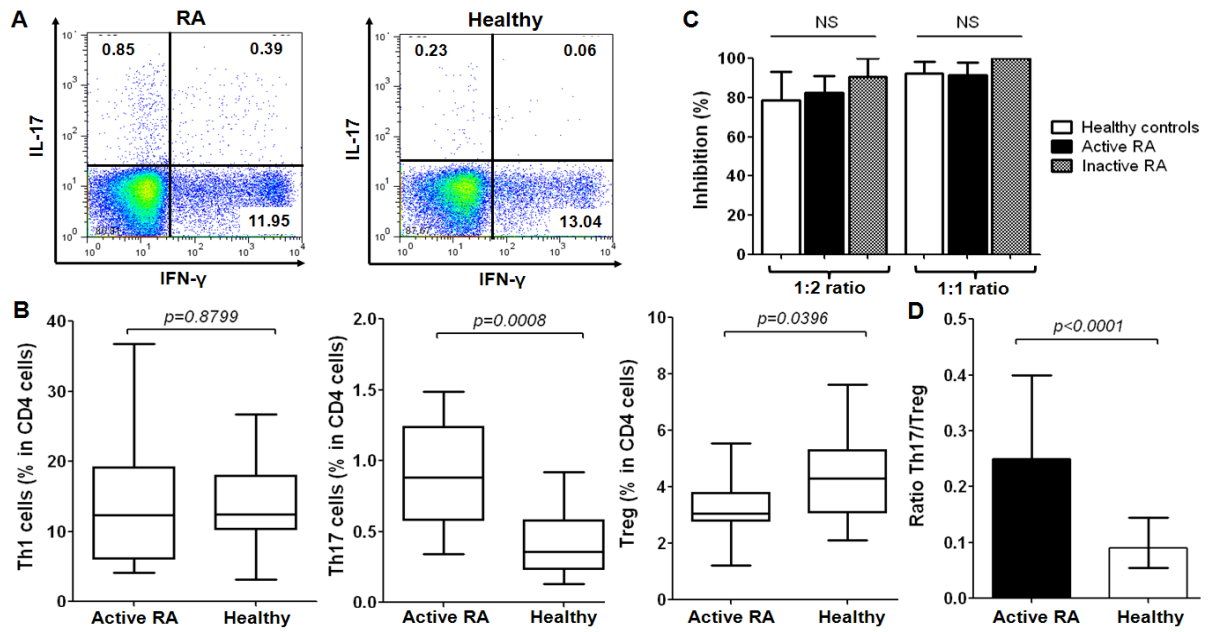


Figure 1: Circulating Th17 are increased in RA patients whereas Treg are decreased but functional. **A, B:** Flow cytometry analysis of Th17 (CD4⁺IL-17⁺), Th1 (CD4⁺IL-17⁻IFN- γ ⁺) and Treg (CD4⁺CD25^{high}Foxp3⁺) cells in RA patients (n=15) and healthy subjects (n=17). **C:** Functional analysis of Treg (CD4⁺CD25^{high}). The proliferation index was measured with the ModFit LTTM 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).