

SAFETY OF THE RECOMBINANT HERPES ZOSTER VACCINE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH JAKi DRUGS

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BACKGROUND / AIM

BACKGROUND: Patients treated with JAK inhibitors (JAKi) have an increased risk of herpes zoster (HZ). A new recombinant vaccine against HZ (Shingrix-RV) is currently available, with indication for patients treated with JAKi.

AIM: To evaluate the safety of the **first dose of the recombinant vaccine** against **HZ** (HZ-RV) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (**RA**), in treatment with any of the **JAKi**.

METHODS

Study: Monocenter, observational study of safety in the first 2 weeks after receiving the first dose of the HZ-RV

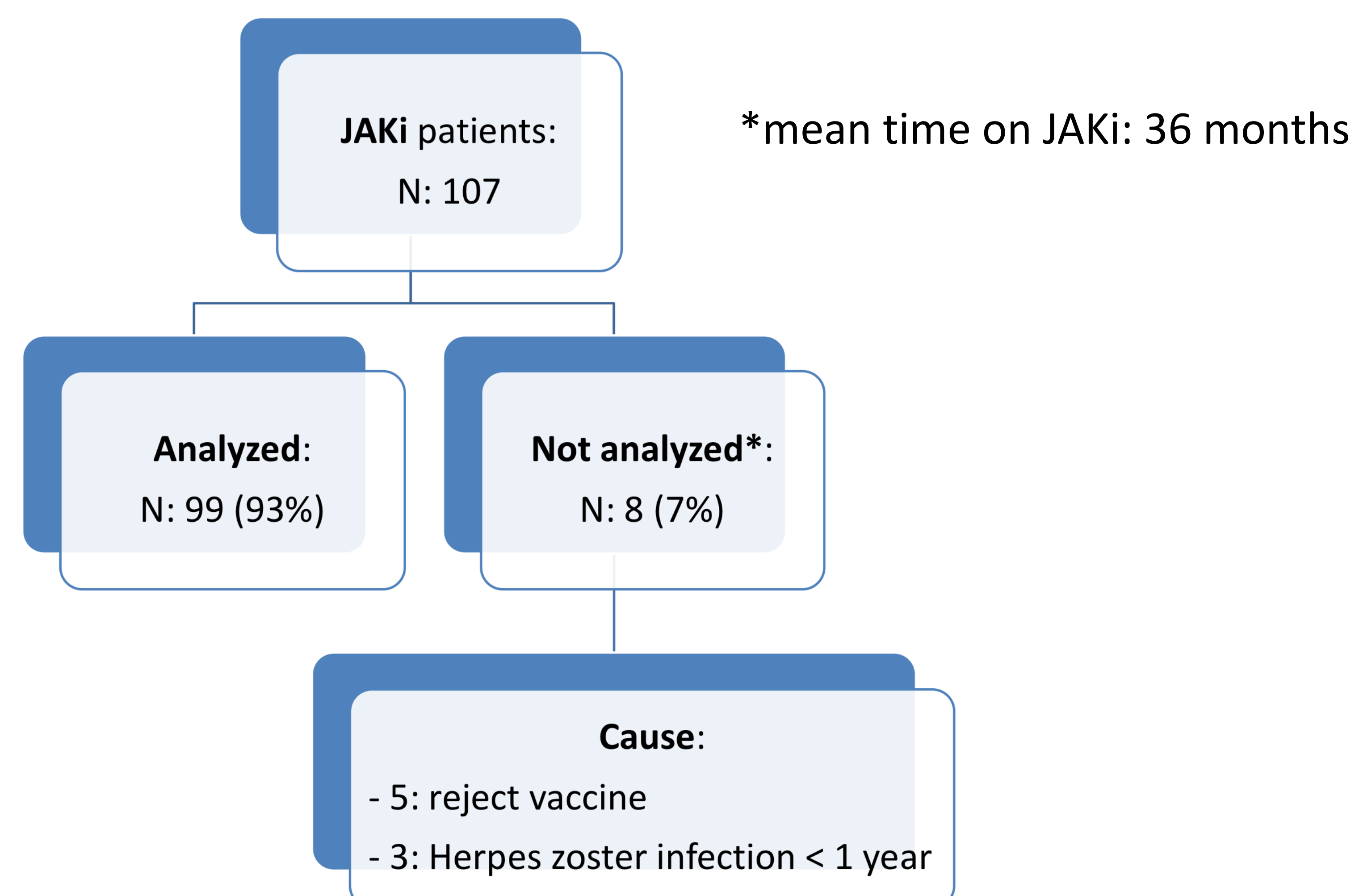
Patients: with RA, treated with any JAKi, in follow up in our Rheumatology clinic

Variables analyzed:

- General information of the patients: sex, age,
- JAKi: drug; dose, time in treatment
- DMARDcs: drug, dose, time in treatment
- Corticosteroids; dose
- Number of vaccines against COVID19 received and side effects.
- Regarding HZ:
 - Infection prior to HZ-RV and time elapsed
 - Side effects during the two weeks after vaccination.

Statistics: descriptive statistical methods, using means, medians, and rates.

Figure 1. Patients of the study treated with JAKi



RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of patients treated with JAKi

• Nº patients analyzed:	99
• Female, n (%)	89 (89)
• Age, mean (SD):	61 (12)
• Years on JAKi, mean (DE)	2.2 (2.6)
• JAKi, n (%):	
Baricitinib:	76 (71)
Upadacitinib:	28 (26)
Tofacitinib:	3 (3)
• Any side effects, n (%):	65 (66)

During 2 weeks after HZ vaccine, were NOT detected:

- Lymphadenopathy
- Hospital admission
- Severe side effects
- A flare of RA

Figure 2. Characteristics of patients treated with JAKi

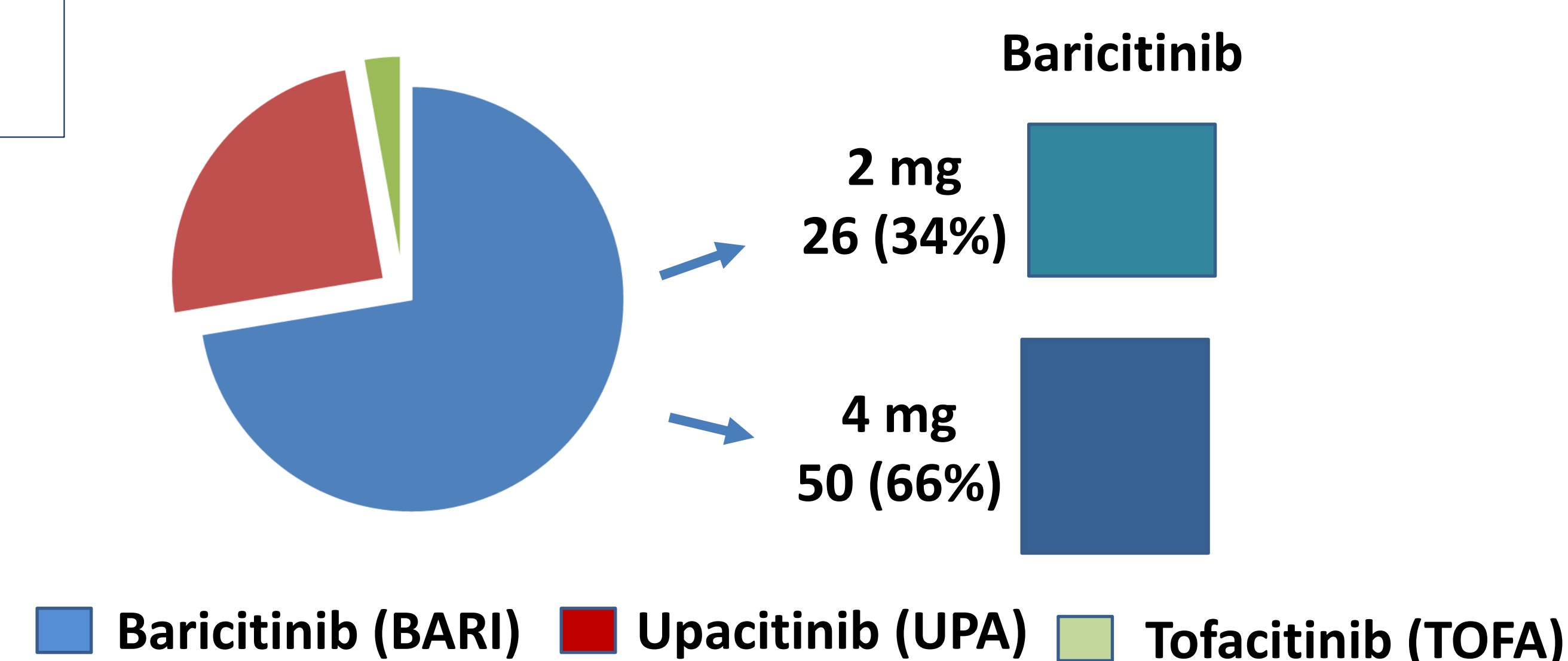


Figure 2. Characteristics of patients treated with JAKi

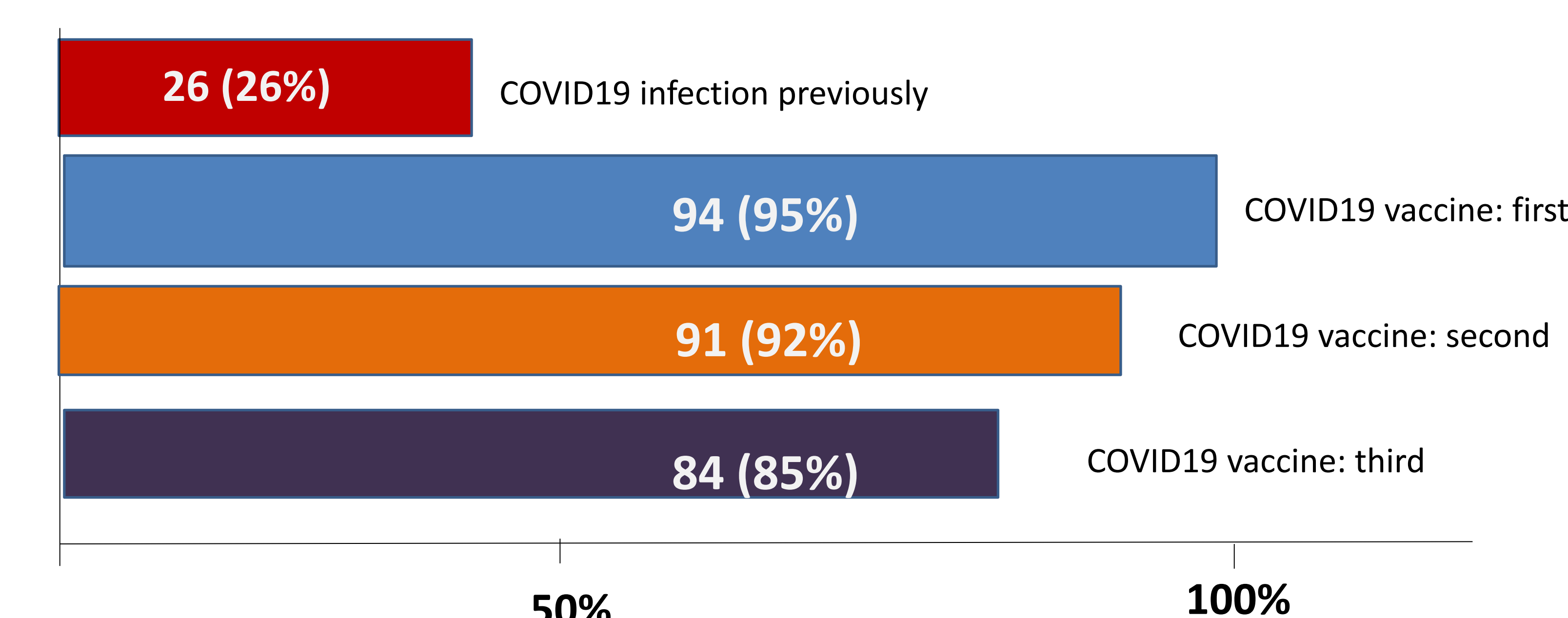
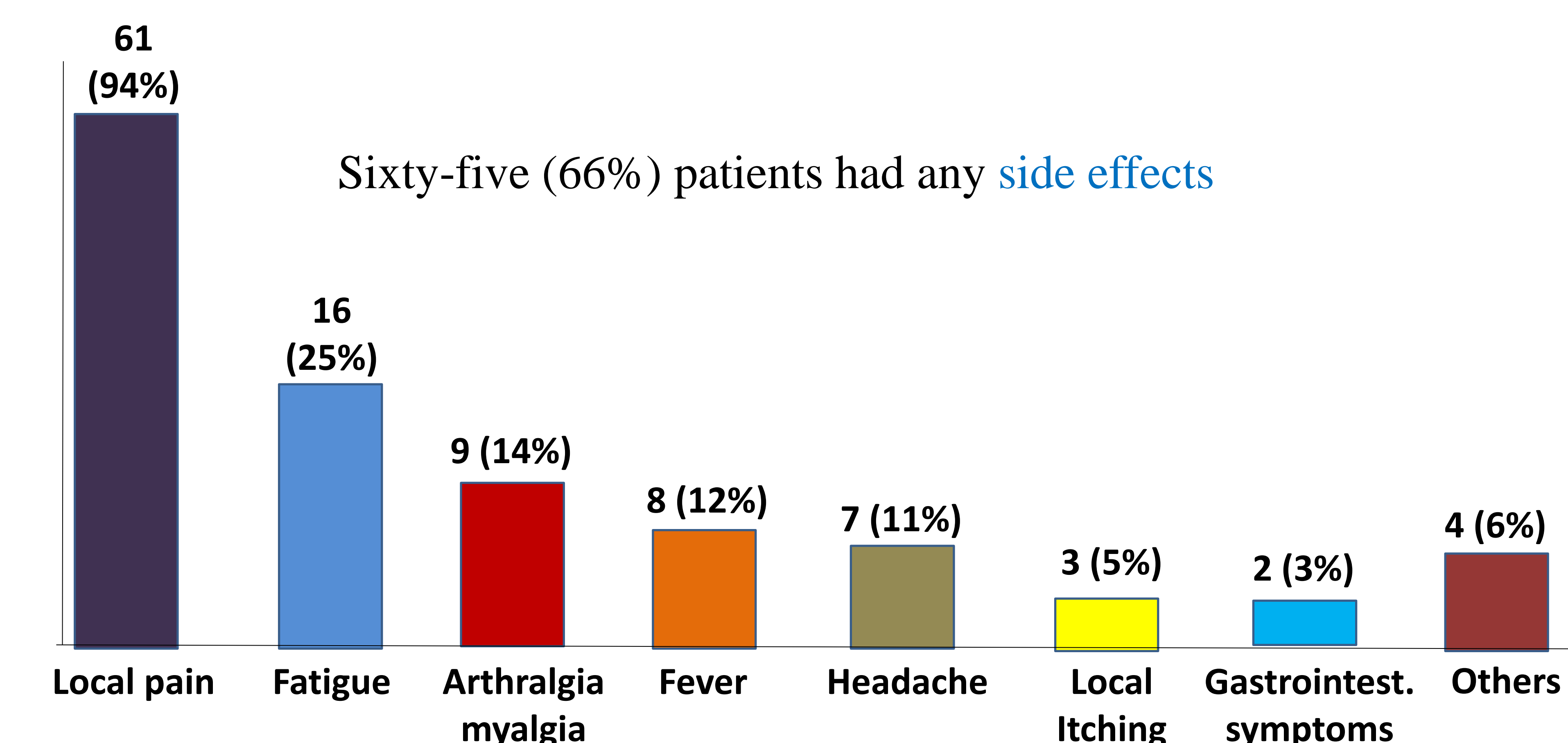


Figure 2. Safety: percentage of patients with side effects



CONCLUSIONS

In patients with RA treated with JAKi, evaluated two weeks after receiving the first dose of HZ-RV:

1. Vaccination is safe.
2. Although 66% of patients have experienced any side effect, these are mild.
3. No flare of RA has been detected in this early period.
4. No relationship was detected between patients who presented side effects with the COVID19 vaccine and with HZ-RV.