Extracorporeal immunoadsorption treatment for rheumatoid arthritis

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To summarise the available evidence on extracorporeal immunoadsorption treatment for rheumatoid arthritis.

Authors' conclusions
- Immunoadsorption treatment is a non-drug therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. The treatment is based on filtering the patient's plasma through a column containing staphylococcal protein A.

- The treatment is effective in alleviating the symptoms of severe rheumatoid arthritis in some patients. Data on long-term outcomes are not available.

- The mechanism of action of this treatment is unclear.

- Most adverse effects are associated with the apheresis procedure.

- The cost per 12 week course of treatment is likely to be more than 20,000 Canadian dollars. The cost-effectiveness of the technology is not yet established.

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