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Swiss Clinical Quality Management in Rheumatic Diseases

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Evolution of Janus Kinase inhibitors (JAKi) prescriptions since 2015 in an international collaboration of rheumatoid arthritis registers (the 'JAK-pot' study): effect of regulatory warnings

This study examined how safety warnings influenced the use of Janus kinase inhibitors, or JAK inhibitors, in people with rheumatoid arthritis. Using data from 12 national registries, the researchers analysed more than 55,000 treatment courses in over 40,000 patients between 2015 and 2024. Overall, JAK inhibitor use increased strongly, from less than 1% of treatments in 2015 to more than 20% in 2024. However, this growth slowed after major safety warnings from regulatory authorities, especially warnings about cardiovascular events, cancer, blood clots, and death. Tofacitinib was most affected, with fewer new starts and more treatment discontinuations after key warnings. Changes were smaller for other JAK inhibitors.

These findings are important because they show that regulatory safety communications influence real-world prescribing. For rheumatologists, the study highlights the need to carefully assess individual risk factors before starting or continuing JAK inhibitors. For patients, it supports shared decision-making that balances treatment benefits with potential safety risks.

Link to the publication: Evolution of Janus Kinase inhibitors (JAKi) prescriptions since 2015 in an international collaboration of rheumatoid arthritis registers (the 'JAK-pot' study): effect of regulatory warnings at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.semarthrit.2026.152946