THE IMPACT OF ANTI-TNF (ETANERCEPT) THERAPY ON WORK PRODUCTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND PSORIASIS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Mlčoch T1, Jirková J1, Mandelikova M1, Kruntorádová K1, Doležal T1

1Value Outcomes s.r.o.

2Corresponding author: mlccho@valueoutcomes.cz

BACKGROUND
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and psoriasis (PS) have significant impact on patients' functional abilities and usual daily activities. They also greatly affect working ability and productivity and thus cause high productivity costs immediately after diagnosis. Foreign studies show that early anti-TNF treatment, in our case etanercept (ETN), slows down disease progression, improves overall disease burden and allows patients to return to work [3-5].

OBJECTIVES
The aim of this study was to examine the impact of etanercept therapy on work-productivity in patients with RA, PsA, AS and PS who are not responding to disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and who are experiencing high productivity loss.

METHODS
Work productivity was examined in 107 working patients (whole sample 193 patients) using the Health and Work Productivity Questionnaire (HPQ) before treatment and in 145 patients after 3 months of the treatment. The details of a sample are summarized in flowchart (Figure 1). The differences in work productivity and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) were tested using Wilcoxon rank sum test.

RESULTS
The baseline values of absenteeism, presenteeism and total HPQ score were 0.717, 0.738 and 0.676, respectively. Absenteeism decreased only slightly to 0.639 (p=0.12) and presenteeism and total HPQ score significantly increased to 0.880 (p<0.001) and EQ-VAS score of 39.5 increased to 70.9 (p<0.001). Increases of HRQoL in AS patients (43 vs. 49 years old in other diagnosis). In all patients, there was also a decrease of working incapacity into the highest reduction of productivity costs when measured by HC which is caused by generally lower age of patients.

CONCLUSIONS
Modern biological anti-TNF (etanercept) therapy has proved to substantially decrease the productivity costs and also improvement of their quality of life and the main clinical outcomes.

REFERENCES