

TUBERCULOSIS SAFETY MONITORING OF THE USE OF MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AGAINST TNF IN PORTUGUESE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS BASED ON AN ELECTRONIC MEDICAL CHART AND REGISTRY (BioRePortAR): EXPERIENCE OF A SINGLE CENTRE.



Polido-Pereira, J. M. ^{*1,2}, Rodrigues, A. M. ^{1,2}, Ferreira, A. I. ¹, Carvalho, A. M. ¹, Saavedra, M.J. ², Barros, R. ², Catita, C. ², Marques, A. ², Canhão, H. ^{1,2}, Viana de Queiroz, M. ², Fonseca, J. E. ^{1,2}

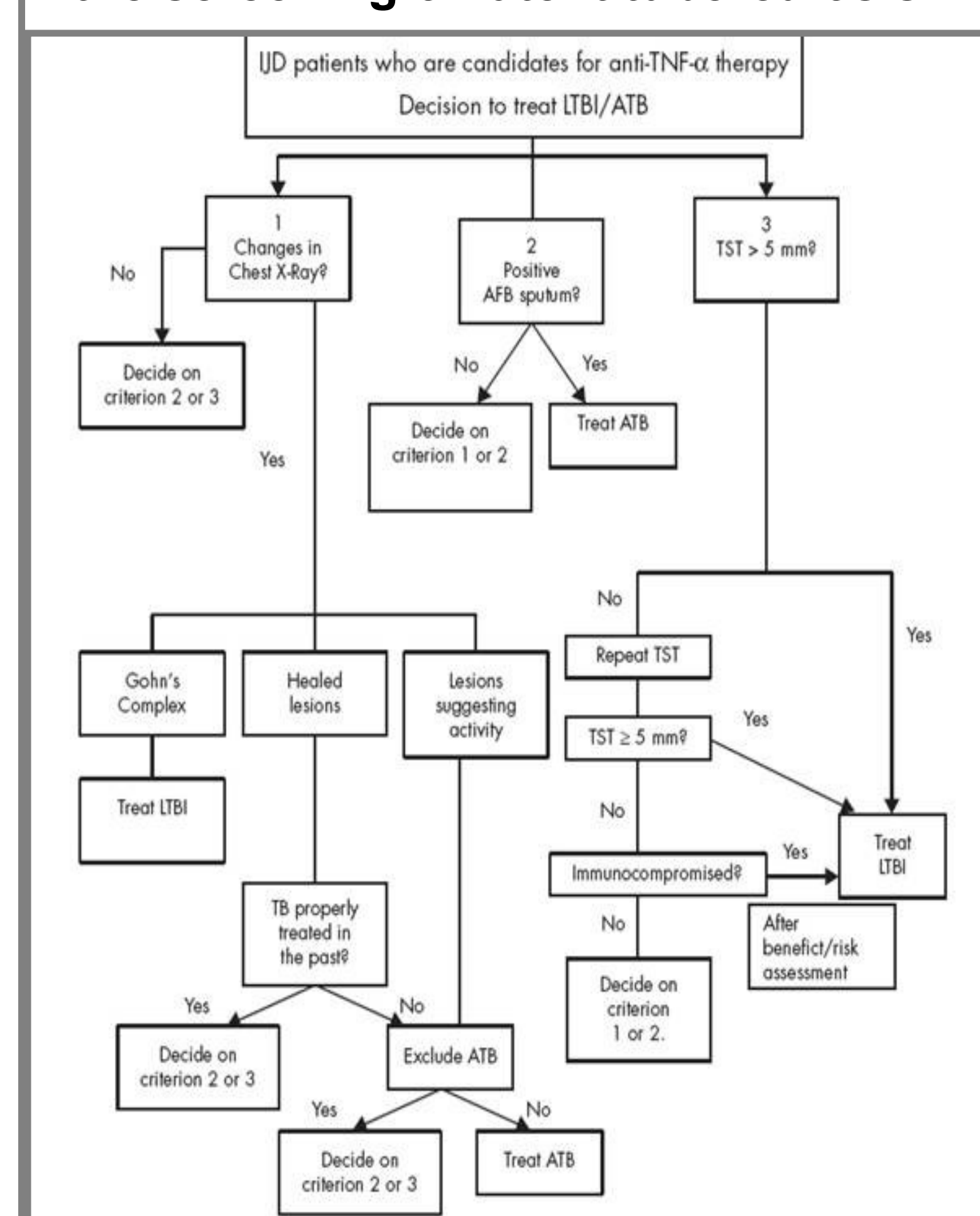
1- Rheumatology Research Unit, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa

2 – Serviço de Reumatologia e Doenças Ósseas Metabólicas, Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisboa, Portugal

Introduction

Monoclonal antibodies against TNF have been associated to the occurrence of reactivation of latent tuberculosis (TB).^{1,2} Due to the high prevalence of TB in Portugal, the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology developed guidelines for the screening and treatment of latent TB in patients treated with biologics. Electronic medical charts that automatically download data into a registry can provide a structured approach to the medical practice and improve the surveillance of adverse effects.

Figure 1 – Portuguese guidelines for the screening of latent tuberculosis³



Results

- 26,8% of the patients were submitted to TB chemoprophylaxis
- 35% of TB chemoprophylaxis was prescribed in PPD negative patients (epidemiological factors were the main determinants for therapy decision)
- No severe adverse effects related to isoniazide
- No reports of TB reactivation
- A *Mycobacterium avium* infection was reported in a patient with longstanding RA treated with infliximab.

Figure 3: Tuberculosis screening - PPD test

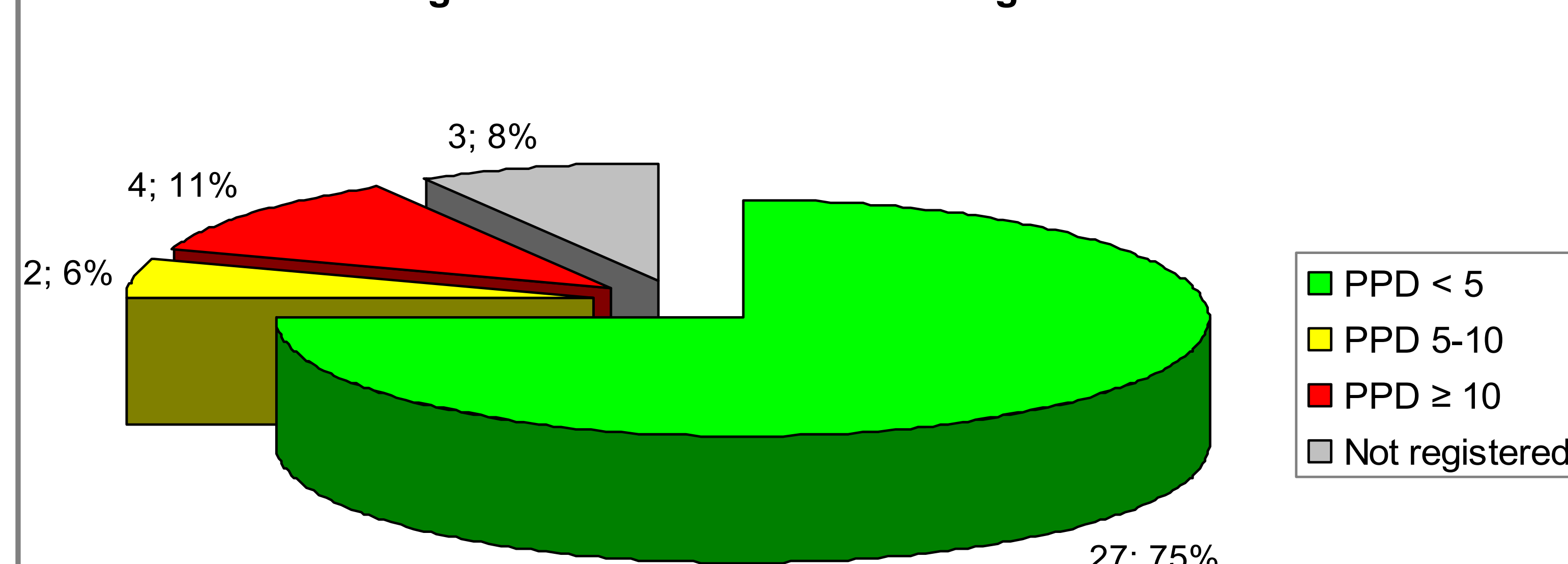
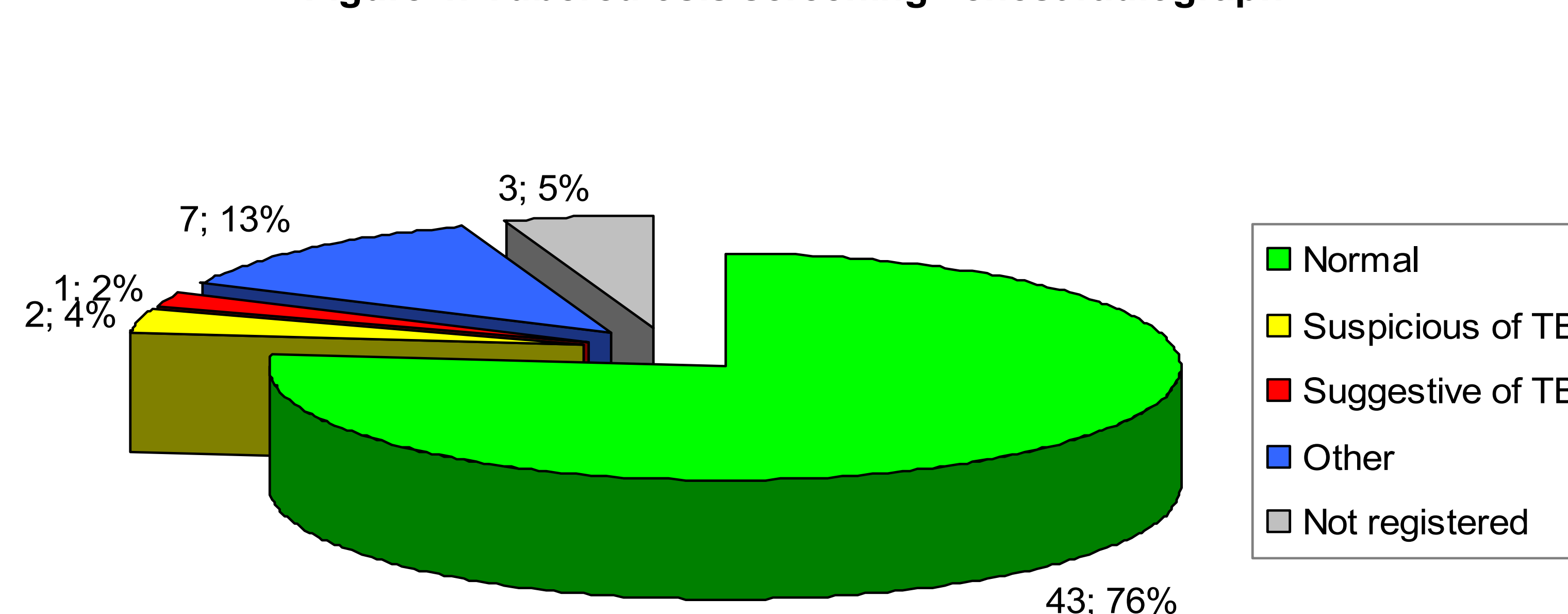


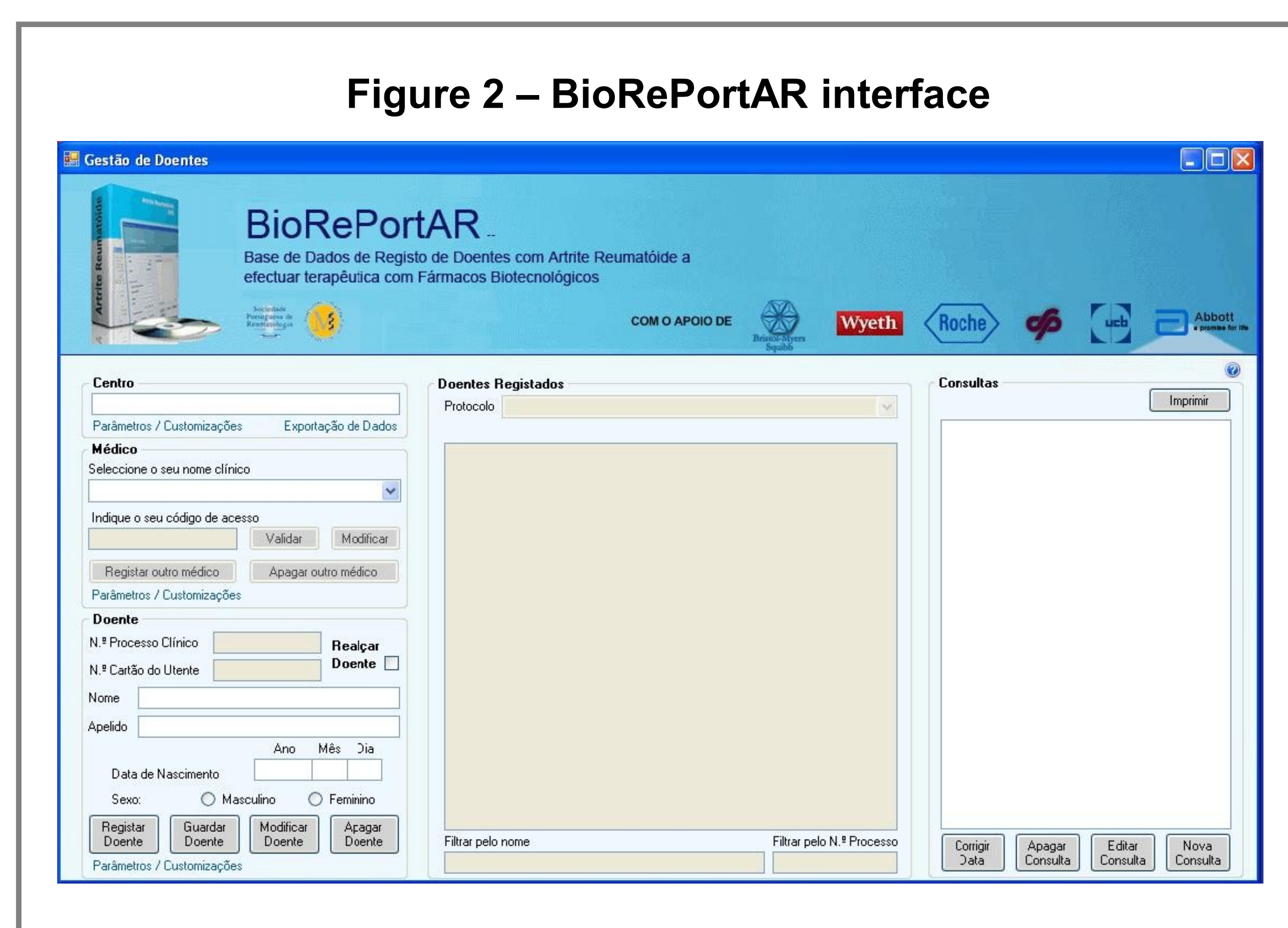
Figure 4: Tuberculosis screening - chest radiograph



Aim

To present the results of TB screening of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients treated with anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies using an electronic database registry developed by the Portuguese Rheumatology Society- BioRePortAR.

Figure 2 – BioRePortAR interface



Patients and Methods

Data from patient records was registered in BioRePortAR including RA patients treated with infliximab or adalimumab in Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisboa.

Thereafter data was captured directly from the BioReportAR.

Population characteristics:

- 56 patients
- 85,7% female
- Mean age – 53,2±14,1
- Mean duration of treatment – 1198,6 days
- 183,9 patient.years

Discussion

26,8 % of patients were treated with TB chemoprophylaxis before starting TNF monoclonal antibody, a third of them in PPD negative patients. In negative PPD patients, PPD retesting was not useful. BioRePortAR is a useful tool for the quality assessment of medical practice.

References

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