

Supplement 5 Subgroup, meta-regressions and sensitivity analyses

eTable 1 Subgroup of network meta-analyses compared with CON for total remission (RR[95%CI])

Characteristics	ACTH	AZA	CH	CTX	CsA	LEF	MMF	MZB	RIT	STE	TAC	TAC+TW	TW
All trials (n=69)	2.15 (1.27,3.64)	2.02 (1.13,3.62)	1.71 (1.35,2.18)	1.84 (1.50,2.26)	1.90 (1.44,2.50)	1.24 (0.73,2.11)	1.86 (1.43,2.41)	1.27 (0.83,1.94)	1.81 (1.11,2.97)	1.05 (0.76,1.44)	2.01 (1.62,2.49)	2.69 (1.80,4.04)	1.79 (1.38,2.32)
Intervention time													
<12 months (n=35)	2.40 (1.02,5.69)	2.28 (1.01,5.76)	1.53 (1.04,2.25)	2.06 (1.23,3.46)	1.83 (0.98,3.42)	1.37 (0.48,3.93)	1.57 (0.77,3.20)	*	1.80 (0.98,3.31)	1.00 (0.61,1.64)	2.46 (1.39,4.37)	3.52 (1.23,10.08)	1.75 (0.86,3.56)
12-24 months (n=19)	*	*	1.81 (0.94,3.50)	2.06 (1.33,3.19)	3.65 (1.76,7.55)	*	2.20 (1.20,4.03)	1.55 (0.76,3.17)	2.21 (1.21,3.36)	1.66 (0.76,3.62)	1.78 (1.06,2.98)	2.67 (1.13,6.30)	1.69 (1.22,3.49)
≥24 months (n=15)	*	1.48 (0.51,4.33)	3.07 (1.62,5.82)	3.22 (1.70,6.08)	1.92 (0.83,4.44)	*	3.05 (1.57,5.93)	*	*	1.37 (0.64,2.96)	2.77 (1.49,5.15)	*	*
Recruitment of participants													
Asian (n=38)	2.08 (1.07,4.06)	*	1.63 (1.19,2.25)	1.79 (1.30,2.46)	1.85 (1.20,2.84)	1.20 (0.63,2.30)	1.71 (1.08,2.72)	1.07 (0.51,2.27)	1.90 (0.95,3.79)	1.18 (0.76,1.84)	1.96 (1.36,2.82)	2.80 (1.16,6.77)	1.86 (1.10,3.13)
Non-Asian (n=31)	*	2.34 (1.19,4.57)	2.03 (1.20,3.43)	2.34 (1.60,3.41)	2.19 (1.38,3.50)	*	2.36 (1.56,3.56)	1.76 (1.00,3.11)	1.67 (0.75,3.74)	1.04 (0.58,1.84)	2.48 (1.70,3.63)	3.26 (1.94,5.47)	1.63 (1.18,2.25)
Center													
Singlecenter (n=26)	1.76 (0.88,3.50)	*	1.51 (1.02,2.25)	1.51 (0.99,2.28)	1.70 (1.00,2.87)	1.17 (0.52,2.66)	1.62 (1.01,2.62)	*	*	1.10 (0.67,1.79)	1.76 (1.13,2.75)	*	1.67 (0.95,2.93)
Multicenter (n=28)	*	2.06 (1.09,3.86)	2.99 (1.58,5.65)	2.12 (1.50,3.00)	1.92 (1.29,2.87)	*	2.06 (1.37,3.09)	1.60 (0.93,2.75)	1.67 (0.75,3.72)	1.36 (0.79,2.35)	2.06 (1.44,2.96)	2.70 (1.64,4.45)	1.54 (1.00,2.37)

Note: ACTH= adrenocorticotrophic hormone; AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii; TW= tripterygium wilfordii.

eTable 2 Results of univariate and Multivariable meta-regression for total remission

Variables(No. of studies) Scale	Comparison	Regression coefficient	Standard error	Proportional change in RR (95% CI)	P value
Sample size (n=69) Per 50 patients	ACTH vs CON	1.06	0.31	2.88 (1.56 ,5.3)	0.00
	AZA vs CON	6.46	3.66	2.04 (0.50 ,8.80)	0.08
	CH vs CON	0.57	0.14	1.76 (1.33 ,2.33)	0.00
	CTX vs CON	0.78	0.14	2.19 (1.67 ,2.85)	0.00
	CsA vs CON	0.80	0.16	2.22 (1.64 ,3.01)	0.00
	LEF vs CON	0.93	1.49	2.54 (0.14 ,46.94)	0.53
	MMF vs CON	0.74	0.16	2.10 (1.55 ,2.85)	0.00
	MZB vs CON	0.41	0.23	1.51 (0.95 ,2.38)	0.08
	RIT vs CON	0.59	0.25	1.81 (1.11 ,2.97)	0.02
	STE vs CON	0.12	0.17	1.13 (0.81 ,1.58)	0.47
	TAC vs CON	0.89	0.14	2.43 (1.86 ,3.17)	0.00
	TAC+TW vs CON	1.04	0.75	2.84 (0.65 ,12.45)	0.17
	TW vs CON	0.44	0.70	1.56 (0.39 ,6.18)	0.53
	Age (n=69) Per 1 years	ACTH vs CON	0.50	0.26	1.64(0.98,2.75)
AZA vs CON		11.39	8.22	3.72(0.01,9)	0.17
CH vs CON		0.52	0.12	1.69(1.33,2.14)	0.00
CTX vs CON		0.56	0.11	1.75(1.42,2.16)	0.00
CsA vs CON		0.54	0.14	1.71(1.3,2.26)	0.00
LEF vs CON		0.24	0.33	1.27(0.67,2.43)	0.47
MMF vs CON		0.56	0.14	1.75(1.33,2.31)	0.00
MZB vs CON		0.18	0.20	1.19(0.8,1.78)	0.39
RIT vs CON		0.60	0.24	1.82(1.14,2.91)	0.01
STE vs CON		-0.11	0.17	0.9(0.65,1.24)	0.51
TAC vs CON		0.65	0.12	1.91(1.52,2.4)	0.00
TAC+TW vs CON		1.00	0.38	2.73(1.29,5.81)	0.01
TW vs CON		0.41	0.25	1.5(0.92,2.45)	0.11
Baseline 24h UP		ACTH vs CON	0.67	0.26	1.96(1.18,3.28)

Variables(No. of studies) Scale	Comparison	Regression coefficient	Standard error	Proportional change in RR (95% CI)	P value
(n=69)	AZA vs CON	4.07	2.15	5.37(0.86,57.41)	0.06
	CH vs CON	0.54	0.13	1.72(1.32,2.24)	0.00
	CTX vs CON	0.68	0.12	1.97(1.54,2.52)	0.00
	CsA vs CON	0.78	0.16	2.19(1.59,3.02)	0.00
	LEF vs CON	-11.24	30.69	0.22(0.01,17)	0.71
	MMF vs CON	0.78	0.16	2.19(1.61,2.98)	0.00
	MZB vs CON	0.33	0.22	1.39(0.9,2.14)	0.14
	RIT vs CON	0.60	0.24	1.82(1.13,2.92)	0.01
	STE vs CON	0.09	0.19	1.09(0.75,1.59)	0.65
	TAC vs CON	0.78	0.13	2.18(1.68,2.81)	0.00
	TAC+TW vs CON	1.35	1.39	3.84(0.25,58.14)	0.33
	TW vs CON	0.66	2.24	1.93(0.02,156)	0.77
	Baseline Scr (n=69)	ACTH vs CON	0.57	0.26	1.77(1.06,2.96)
AZA vs CON		-8.99	5.39	0(0,4.8)	0.10
CH vs CON		0.66	0.13	1.94(1.51,2.5)	0.00
CTX vs CON		0.66	0.12	1.93(1.51,2.47)	0.00
CsA vs CON		0.87	0.19	2.38(1.66,3.42)	0.00
LEF vs CON		-0.33	2.13	0.72(0.01,47.19)	0.88
MMF vs CON		0.73	0.17	2.08(1.5,2.89)	0.00
MZB vs CON		-0.26	0.32	0.77(0.41,1.42)	0.40
RIT vs CON		0.60	0.24	1.82(1.13,2.91)	0.01
STE vs CON		0.15	0.17	1.17(0.84,1.62)	0.36
TAC vs CON		0.95	0.27	2.59(1.53,4.4)	0.00
TAC+TW vs CON		1.21	0.34	3.36(1.71,6.61)	0.00
TW vs CON		2.54	1.69	12.71(0.46,352.28)	0.13
Multivariable(above four Variables)	ACTH vs CON	-0.33	0.50	0.72(0.27,1.94)	0.52
	AZA vs CON	-7.39	6.16	0.04(0.01,108.31)	0.23
	CH vs CON	0.16	0.25	1.17(0.71,1.93)	0.53

Variables(No. of studies) Scale	Comparison	Regression coefficient	Standard error	Proportional change in RR (95% CI)	P value
	CTX vs CON	0.48	0.28	1.61(0.92,2.81)	0.09
	CsA vs CON	0.92	0.37	2.51(1.21,5.22)	0.01
	LEF vs CON	1.91	0.56	6.78(2.24,20.5)	0.00
	MMF vs CON	0.78	0.21	2.19(1.44,3.33)	0.00
	MZB vs CON	1.89	0.79	6.61(1.39,31.34)	0.02
	RIT vs CON	0.60	0.23	1.82(1.16,2.85)	0.01
	STE vs CON	-0.25	0.28	0.78(0.45,1.36)	0.38
	TAC vs CON	0.88	0.29	2.4(1.37,4.21)	0.00
	TAC+TW vs CON	1.60	0.99	4.97(0.72,34.44)	0.10
	TW vs CON	-4.55	3.38	0.01(0,7.95)	0.18

Note: ACTH= adrenocorticotrophic hormone; AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii; TW= tripterygium wilfordii.

eTable 3 Results of network meta analysis before and after meta-regression for total remission (RR [95% CI])

Comparison	Before adjustment	x1	x2	x3	x4	x1 x2 x3 x4
ACTH vs CON	2.15(1.27,3.64)	2.88 (1.56 ,5.3)	1.64(0.98,2.75)	1.96(1.18,3.28)	1.77(1.06,2.96)	0.72(0.27,1.94)
AZA vs CON	2.02(1.13,3.62)	2.04 (0.50 ,8.80)	3.72(0.01,9.00)	5.37(0.86,57.41)	0.22(0.16,4.8)	0.34(0.01,108.31)
CH vs CON	1.71(1.35,2.18)	1.76 (1.33 ,2.33)	1.69(1.33,2.14)	1.72(1.32,2.24)	1.94(1.51,2.5)	1.17(0.71,1.93)
CTX vs CON	1.84(1.5,2.26)	2.19 (1.67 ,2.85)	1.75(1.42,2.16)	1.97(1.54,2.52)	1.93(1.51,2.47)	1.61(0.92,2.81)
CsA vs CON	1.9(1.44,2.5)	2.22 (1.64 ,3.01)	1.71(1.3,2.26)	2.19(1.59,3.02)	2.38(1.66,3.42)	2.51(1.21,5.22)
LEF vs CON	1.24(0.73,2.11)	2.54 (0.14 ,46.94)	1.27(0.67,2.43)	0.04(0.01,17)	0.72(0.01,47.19)	6.78(2.24,20.5)
MMF vs CON	1.86(1.43,2.41)	2.10 (1.55 ,2.85)	1.75(1.33,2.31)	2.19(1.61,2.98)	2.08(1.5,2.89)	2.19(1.44,3.33)
MZB vs CON	1.27(0.83,1.94)	1.51 (0.95 ,2.38)	1.19(0.8,1.78)	1.39(0.9,2.14)	0.77(0.41,1.42)	6.61(1.39,31.34)
RIT vs CON	1.81(1.11,2.97)	1.81 (1.11 ,2.97)	1.82(1.14,2.91)	1.82(1.13,2.92)	1.82(1.13,2.91)	1.82(1.16,2.85)
STE vs CON	1.05(0.76,1.44)	1.13 (0.81 ,1.58)	0.9(0.65,1.24)	1.09(0.75,1.59)	1.17(0.84,1.62)	0.78(0.45,1.36)
TAC vs CON	2.01(1.62,2.49)	2.43 (1.86 ,3.17)	1.91(1.52,2.4)	2.18(1.68,2.81)	2.59(1.53,4.4)	2.4(1.37,4.21)
TAC+TW vs CON	2.69(1.8,4.04)	2.84 (0.65 ,12.45)	2.73(1.29,5.81)	3.84(0.25,58.14)	3.36(1.71,6.61)	4.97(0.72,34.44)
TW vs CON	1.79(1.38,2.32)	1.56 (0.39 ,6.18)	1.5(0.92,2.45)	1.93(0.02,156)	12.71(0.46,352.28)	0.01(0.00,7.95)

Note: ACTH= adrenocorticotrophic hormone; AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii; TW= tripterygium wilfordii.

x1=Adjusted for small-study effects; x2=Adjusted for year of studies; x3=Adjusted for baseline 24h UP of studies; x4= Adjusted for baseline Scr of studies; x1 x2 x3 x4= Adjusted for Multivariable

eTable 4 Sensitivity analyses of network meta-analyses compared with CON for total remission (RR[95%CI])

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>ACTH</i>	<i>AZA</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CTX</i>	<i>CsA</i>	<i>LEF</i>	<i>MMF</i>	<i>MZB</i>	<i>RIT</i>	<i>STE</i>	<i>TAC</i>	<i>TAC+TW</i>	<i>TW</i>
All trials	2.15	2.02	1.71	1.84	1.90	1.24	1.86	1.27	1.81	1.05	2.01	2.69	1.79
(n=69)	(1.27,3.64)	(1.13,3.62)	(1.35,2.18)	(1.50,2.26)	(1.44,2.50)	(0.73,2.11)	(1.43,2.41)	(0.83,1.94)	(1.11,2.97)	(0.76,1.44)	(1.62,2.49)	(1.80,4.04)	(1.38,2.32)
Exclude													
intermediate	1.94	1.17	1.75	1.66	1.65	1.08	1.65	1.25	1.81	1.17	1.75	2.58	1.70
time point data	(1.14,3.31)	(0.54,2.50)	(1.35,2.27)	(1.32,2.08)	(1.23,2.22)	(0.63,1.87)	(1.23,2.21)	(0.74,2.12)	(1.11,2.96)	(0.80,1.71)	(1.36,2.26)	(1.51,4.40)	(1.19,2.42)
(n=46)													

Note: ACTH= adrenocorticotrophic hormone; AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii; TW= tripterygium wilfordii.

eTable 5 Sensitivity analyses of network meta-analyses compared with CON for 24h UTP (SMD[95%CI])

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>AZA</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CTX</i>	<i>CsA</i>	<i>LEF</i>	<i>MMF</i>	<i>MZB</i>	<i>RIT</i>	<i>STE</i>	<i>TAC</i>	<i>TAC+TW</i>
All trials	-1.01 (-	-0.52 (-	-1.01 (-	-0.70 (-	0.37 (-0.79,	-0.98 (-	-0.97 (-1.93, -	-0.27 (-	-0.41 (-	-1.15 (-1.73, -	-2.02 (-2.96,
(n=45)	1.91, -0.12)	1.09, 0.06)	1.45, -0.57)	1.34, -0.06)	1.53)	1.66, -0.30)	0.01)	1.10, 0.56)	1.07, 0.26)	0.58)	-1.09)
Exclude											
intermediate	-0.37 (-1.79,	-0.54 (-	-0.96 (-	-0.60 (-1.49,	0.40 (-1.19,	-0.94 (-2.05,	-0.98 (-2.75,	-0.31 (-1.93,	-0.44 (-1.45,	-1.13 (-2.06,	-1.91 (-
point data	1.06)	1.56, 0.47)	1.63, -0.28)	0.28)	1.98)	0.16)	0.79)	1.30)	0.57)	-0.19)	3.87, -0.05)
(n=29)											

Note: AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii; TW= tripterygium wilfordii.

eTable 6 Sensitivity analyses of network meta-analyses compared with CON for relapse rate (RR [95%CI])

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>ACTH</i>	<i>AZA</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CTX</i>	<i>CsA</i>	<i>MMF</i>	<i>MZB</i>	<i>TAC</i>	<i>TAC+TW</i>	<i>TW</i>
All trials (n=18)	0.58 (0.04,8.99)	22.22 (0.75,656.85)	3.30 (0.53,20.53)	1.95 (0.39,9.77)	3.95 (0.60,26.19)	4.48 (0.43,46.45)	5.06 (0.10,259.35)	4.84 (0.68,34.42)	1.58 (0.08,29.65)	2.05 (0.15,28.82)
Exclude intermediate time point data (n=17)	0.32 (0.02,5.28)	13.56 (0.46,402.52)	8.19 (0.80,84.06)	1.07 (0.17,6.73)	2.41 (0.32,17.91)	2.54 (0.22,29.62)	2.79 (0.05,149.36)	2.66 (0.32,22.32)	0.87 (0.04,17.04)	1.13 (0.08,16.64)

Note: ACTH= adrenocorticotrophic hormone; AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii; TW= tripterygium wilfordii.

eTable 7 Sensitivity analyses of network meta-analyses compared with CON for Scr (SMD[95%CI])

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>AZA</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CTX</i>	<i>CsA</i>	<i>LEF</i>	<i>MMF</i>	<i>MZB</i>	<i>RIT</i>	<i>STE</i>	<i>TAC</i>	<i>TAC+TW</i>
All trials (n=29)	0.09 (- 0.82,1.00)	0.43 (- 0.26,1.12)	0.04 (- 0.58,0.66)	-0.22 (- 1.04,0.61)	-0.07 (- 1.03,0.89)	0.01 (- 0.75,0.77)	0.00 (- 0.56,0.57)	1.00 (0.36,1.64)	0.34 (- 0.41,1.08)	0.46 (- 0.46,1.38)	0.09 (- 0.82,1.00)
Exclude intermediate time point data (n=19)	-0.07 (- 1.30,1.16)	0.33 (- 0.67,1.33)	-0.08 (- 0.91,0.76)	-0.30 (- 1.40,0.79)	-0.21 (- 1.66,1.24)	-0.07 (- 1.15,1.00)	0.04 (- 1.05,1.12)	1.09 (0.23,1.96)	0.32 (- 0.82,1.46)	0.58 (- 0.84,2.00)	-0.07 (- 1.30,1.16)

Note: AZA= azathioprine; CH= chlorambucil; CON= non-immunosuppressive therapies (the control group); CTX= cyclophosphamide; CsA= cyclosporine; LEF= leflunomide; MMF= mycophenolate mofetil; MZB= mizoribine; RIT= rituximab; STE= steroids; TAC= tacrolimus; TAC+TW= tacrolimus+ tripterygium wilfordii.