Rheumatoid Arthritis: the treatment gap
More than 20 million people worldwide¹ and twice as many women as men suffer from rheumatoid arthritis (RA).² While there are many treatments available to help manage RA, up to 30 percent of patients fail to respond to treatment³. A recent survey found that more than two thirds of RA patients experience pain despite their current treatment and 80 percent believe that their treatment could be improved.⁴ While some treatments provide relief from the signs and symptoms of RA, only a small number of medications prevent the long-term progression of RA in the joints and around the body.⁵

A major goal of treating a person with RA is to help them reach remission, the point when all or most of the symptoms of the disease have gone away and further damage to the joints has stopped. Following positive results from a number of large international clinical trials, Roche believes the goal of remission can now be achieved.

Roche and autoimmune diseases
During the 1990s, researchers at Roche began to investigate the causes of RA, which has resulted in the discovery of innovative new therapies which target the key drivers of inflammation in RA and address a considerable unmet need. These solutions have helped change the way that RA is treated and make a positive difference to patients’ lives.

The company's autoimmune franchise currently contains two treatments for RA, which have different modes of action and offer effective, alternative treatment options to physicians and patients, supported by trial data and clinical experience.

MabThera/Rituxan and RoACTEMRA/ACTEMRA
MabThera (rituximab), a selective B cell therapy, was the first licensed product within Roche’s autoimmune franchise, representing a fundamentally different approach to treatment. Approved in 2006 for use in RA patients who do not benefit from or who are unable to take current treatment options, including one or more anti-TNFs, MabThera is now widely available. MabThera is marketed in the US by Genentech and Biogen Idec under the brand name Rituxan®.
RoACTEMRA/ACTEMRA (tocilizumab) is the first in a new class of treatments for RA which target IL-6, a key driver of joint damage and chronic inflammation in patients with RA. RoACTEMRA was approved in the European Union in January 2009 for the treatment of RA in patients who have either responded inadequately to, or who were intolerant to, previous therapy with one or more disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or anti-TNFs. Approval by the US FDA followed in January 2010. On the 4th June 2010, RoACTEMRA received a license extension by the European Commission (EC) to reduce the rate of progression of joint damage and improve physical function when given in combination with methotrexate. ACTEMRA is also approved for use in several other countries, including India, Brazil, Switzerland, Australia and Canada. ACTEMRA is the result of research collaboration by Chugai and is being co-developed globally with Chugai.

**Future treatments under investigation**

As a company, Roche is already a leader in developing personalised healthcare solutions, for example within the oncology field. Now, the company is pursuing a similar approach within autoimmune diseases, by looking to identify specific RA patient profiles to help physicians determine the most appropriate treatment pathway, based on insights into how RA develops at the molecular level.

**Company overview**

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world’s largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche’s personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2009, Roche had over 80'000 employees worldwide and invested almost 10 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 49.1 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan.

*For more information please visit: [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com)*
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4. Rheumatoid Arthritis – Impact on life and treatment options: online patient survey of 1,657 RA patients. Jan-Feb 2010 (Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Spain and UK). Data on file