

**Supplementary table 1** Baseline variables of rheumatoid arthritis patients.

	Total (n=108)	Included patients (n=61)	Excluded patients (n=47)	<i>P</i> value
Age, mean $\pm$ SD (years)	57.79 $\pm$ 12.81	57.51 $\pm$ 12.02	58.15 $\pm$ 13.89	0.798
Women, no. (%)	86 (80)	50 (82)	36 (77)	0.492
Disease duration (years), mean $\pm$ SD	6.91 $\pm$ 5.84	6.50 $\pm$ 5.37	7.44 $\pm$ 6.42	0.411
ESR (mm/h), mean $\pm$ SD	45.42 $\pm$ 30.59	45.84 $\pm$ 32.16	44.87 $\pm$ 28.76	0.872
CRP (mg/dl), mean $\pm$ SD	29.44 $\pm$ 33.95	30.67 $\pm$ 35.49	27.84 $\pm$ 32.15	0.669
RF positive, no. (%)	81 (75)	45(74)	36 (77)	0.737
ACCP positive, no. (%)	81 (75)	45(74)	36 (77)	0.737
DAS28, mean $\pm$ SD	5.55 $\pm$ 1.75	5.51 $\pm$ 1.91	5.60 $\pm$ 1.53	0.795
Treatments				
bDMARDs, no. (%)	28(26)	15 (25)	13 (28)	0.718
cDMARDs, no. (%)	91 (84)	51 (84)	40 (85)	0.832
NSAIDs, no. (%)	33 (31)	17 (28)	16 (34)	0.490
Corticosteroids	36 (33)	19 (31)	17 (36)	0.583

ESR, Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP, C-reactive protein; RF, Rheumatoid factor; ACCP, Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide; DAS28, Disease activity score of 28 joints; cDMARDs, conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; bDMARDs, biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; NSAIDs, nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drugs.

There was no significant difference in age, gender, duration of disease, ESR, CRP, DAS28, RF positive rate, ACCP positive rate and treatments between the included patients and excluded patients.