



# PREDNISONE TAPER IN GCA

## GIACTA TRIAL

Excluded: Major ischemic events  
e.g. vision loss  
No IV pulse steroids given

### 26-week taper WITH Tocilizumab

| Week  | 26-week taper<br>WITH Tocilizumab<br>(qweek or 2weeks) |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|       | Prednisone (mg/d)                                      |
| 1     | 60                                                     |
| 2     | 50                                                     |
| 3     | 40                                                     |
| 4     | 35                                                     |
| 5     | 30                                                     |
| 6     | 25                                                     |
| 7     | 20                                                     |
| 8     | 15                                                     |
| 9     | 12.5                                                   |
| 10    | 12.5                                                   |
| 11    | 10                                                     |
| 12    | 9                                                      |
| 13    | 8                                                      |
| 14    | 7                                                      |
| 15-16 | 6                                                      |
| 17-18 | 5                                                      |
| 19-20 | 4                                                      |
| 21-22 | 3                                                      |
| 23-24 | 2                                                      |
| 25-26 | 1                                                      |
| 27-28 | 0                                                      |

## GUIDELINES

Adapted based on the 2010  
BSR & BHPR guidelines +  
2018 EULAR guidelines

IV pulse steroids if acute  
visual loss or amaurosis fugax

| Weeks | Pred<br>min. 40 mg | Pred<br>max. 60mg** |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1-2   | 40                 | 60                  |
| 3-4   | 40                 | 60                  |
| 5-6   | 30                 | 50                  |
| 7-8   | 20                 | 40                  |
| 9-10  | 17.5               | 30                  |
| 11-12 | 15                 | 20                  |
| 13-14 | 12.5               | 17.5                |
| 15-16 | 10                 | 15                  |
| 17-18 | 9                  | 12.5                |
| 19-20 | 9                  | 10                  |
| 21-24 | 8                  | 9                   |
| 25-28 | 7                  | 8                   |
| 29-32 | 6                  | 7                   |
| 33-36 | 5                  | 6                   |
| 37-40 | 4                  | 5                   |
| 41-44 | 3                  | 4                   |
| 45-48 | 2                  | 3                   |
| 49-52 | 1                  | 2                   |
| 53-56 | 0                  | 1                   |

\*\*The 2021 ACR guidelines  
conditionally recommend:  
Start prednisone 1mg/kg, max 80mg/d

GC taper regimen must weigh the risk  
of relapse against the risk of GC-  
related adverse events.

