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Correspondence to: Eimear M. Savage, Department of Rheumatology, Musgrave Park Hospital, Stockman's Lane, Belfast BT9 7JB, UK. E-mail: savageeimear@gmail.com

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Letters to the Editor

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Comment on: A case of certolizumab-induced interstitial lung disease in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis: reply

Sir, We thank Savage et al. [1] for highlighting the presence of other case reports of certolizumab-associated interstitial lung disease (ILD) [2–4]. Two of the cases were published in 2012 and therefore were earlier than our own, rendering our assertion, made in good faith at the time of writing, that our case was the first to be published incorrect. Nevertheless, together with our case, they corroborate the impression that certolizumab carries a similar risk to other TNF-α inhibitors with respect to the development of ILD. Our own case developed breathlessness ~14 weeks after beginning certolizumab therapy. In conjunction with the time to symptom onset observed in the other cases of between 8 and 16 weeks, this supports the impression that certolizumab is associated with a relatively more rapid onset of symptoms than other TNF-α inhibitors, given the majority of cases in the series by Perez-Alvarez et al. [5] appeared after at least 6 months of therapy.

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Ian Glaspole1,2, Ryan Hoy1,3 and Peter Ryan2
1Department of Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne and 2Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.

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