**Table S1**

**The characteristics for 112 patients with rheumatoid arthritis**

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| **Characteristics** | **LEF group (n=51)** | **LEF + LIG group (n=61)** |
| **Male/Female** | 12/39 | 15/46 |
| **Age (years)** | 52.4 ± 10.9 | 54.1 ± 11.0 |
| **Duration of disease (months)** | 12.2 ± 6.1 | 11.7 ± 8.1 |
| **Rheumatoid factor positive n (%)** | 86% | 79% |
| **Number of tender joints** | 10.9 ± 12.1 | 11.12 ± 14.08 |
| **Number of swollen joints** | 11.1 ± 7.5 | 12.31 ± 8.61 |
| **Erosion Score** | 38.2 ± 4.2  | 38.8 ± 4.3 |
| **DMARD used before study (patients)** | 9 (18)† | 8 (13)† |

†Number of patients (percentage). Leflunomide=LEF; Ligustrazine=LIG; DMARD=disease-modifying antirheumatic drug