What is claimed is:

1. An IL-17 antibody for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), characterized in that the IL-17 antibody is to be administered:

a) to a high risk RA patient as part of an induction regimen; and

b) thereafter, to the patient at a dose of about 75 mg - about 300 mg every month,

wherein the IL-17 antibody binds to an epitope of an IL-17 homodimer having two mature IL-17 protein chains, said epitope comprising Leu74, Tyr85, His86, Met87, Asn88, Val124, Thr125, Pro126, Ile127, Val128, His129 on one chain and Tyr43, Tyr44, Arg46, Ala79, Asp80 on the other chain, wherein the IL-17 antibody has a K_D of about 100-200 pM, and wherein the IL-17 antibody has an *in vivo* half-life of about 4 weeks, and

wherein the high risk RA patient:

i) is seropositive for rheumatoid factor (RF+), anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA+), or both RF+ and ACPA+; and

ii) has a high level of C-reactive protein (CRP), a high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), or both a high level of CRP and a high ESR.

2. The IL-17 antibody for use according to claim 1, wherein the induction regimen comprises administering three doses of about 10 mg/kg of the IL-17 antibody to the patient, each of the three doses being delivered every other week.

3. The IL-17 antibody for use according to claim 2, wherein the doses of step a) are to be delivered intravenously and the doses of step b) are to be delivered subcutaneously.

4. The IL-17 antibody for use according to claim 1, wherein the induction regimen comprises administering five doses of about 75 mg - about 300 mg of the IL-17 antibody to the patient, each of the five doses being delivered weekly.

5. The IL-17 antibody for use according to claim 4, wherein the doses of step a) and b) are to be delivered subcutaneously.

6. The IL-17 antibody for use according to any one of the above claims, wherein the first dose according to step a) is to be delivered during week zero and the first monthly dose according to step b) is delivered during week eight.

7. The IL-17 antibody for use according to any of the above claims, wherein prior to step a), the patient is selected for treatment on the basis of the patient being a high risk RA patient.

8. The IL-17 antibody for use according to claim 7, wherein the high level of CRP is > 10 mg/L, as measured by hsCRP and wherein the high ESR is > 28 mm/h.

9. The IL-17 antibody for use according to any of the above claims, wherein prior to administering the IL-17 antibody the patient was previously treated with a DMARD, a TNF alpha antagonist, or methotrexate.

10. An IL-17 antibody for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), characterized in that the IL-17 antibody is to be administered:

a) to a high risk RA patient as three intravenous doses of about 10 mg/kg, each of the three doses being delivered every other week; and

b) thereafter, at a dose of about 75 mg - about 300 mg every month, beginning one month from delivery of the third intravenous dose,

wherein the IL-17 antibody binds to an epitope of an IL-17 homodimer having two mature IL-17 protein chains, said epitope comprising Leu74, Tyr85, His86, Met87, Asn88, Val124, Thr125, Pro126, Ile127, Val128, His129 on one chain and Tyr43, Tyr44, Arg46, Ala79, Asp80 on the other chain, wherein the IL-17 antibody has a KD of about 100-200 pM, and wherein the IL-17 antibody has an in vivo half-life of about 4 weeks, and

wherein the high risk RA patient:

i) is seropositive for rheumatoid factor (RF+), anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA+), or both RF+ and ACPA+; and

ii) has a high level of C-reactive protein (CRP), a high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), or both a high level of CRP and a high ESR.

11. An IL-17 antibody for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), characterized in that the IL-17 antibody is to be administered:

a) to a high risk RA patient as five subcutaneous doses of about 75 mg - about 300 mg, each of the five doses being delivered weekly; and

b) thereafter, at a dose of about 75 mg - about 300 mg every month, beginning one month from the fifth subcutaneous dose,

wherein the IL-17 antibody binds to an epitope of an IL-17 homodimer having two mature IL-17 protein chains, said epitope comprising Leu74, Tyr85, His86, Met87, Asn88, Val124, Thr125, Pro126, Ile127, Val128, His129 on one chain and Tyr43, Tyr44, Arg46, Ala79, Asp80 on the other chain, wherein the IL-17 antibody has a K_D of about 100-200 pM, and wherein the IL-17 antibody has an in vivo half-life of about 4 weeks, and

wherein the high risk RA patient:

i) is seropositive for rheumatoid factor (RF+), anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA+), or both RF+ and ACPA+; and

ii) has a high level of C-reactive protein (CRP), a high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), or both a high level of CRP and a high ESR.

12. The IL-17 antibody for use according to any of the above claims, wherein the IL-17 antibody comprises:

i) an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain (VH) comprising the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:8;

ii) an immunoglobulin light chain variable domain (VL) comprising the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:10;

iii) an immunoglobulin VH domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:8 and an immunoglobulin VL domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:10;

iv) an immunoglobulin VH domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:3;

v) an immunoglobulin VL domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6;

vi) an immunoglobulin VH domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NO:13;

vii) an immunoglobulin VH domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:3 and an immunoglobulin VL domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6; or

viii) an immunoglobulin VH domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NO:13 and an immunoglobulin VL domain comprising the hypervariable regions set forth as SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6; or

ix) secukinumab.

Claims

1. An invention not claimed in any divisional application.