The mean duration of symptoms was 62.4 months (minimum 1 month; maximum 40 years). From the evacuation request until effective journey patients waited a mean of 13.9 months (missing data in 37 patients). At arrival, only 25.9% of patients were or had been on corticosteroids and only 15.5% on conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) treatment, versus 62% and 67.2%, respectively, after assessment in Portugal (graphic). Even common and cheap drugs, like prednisolone and hydroxychloroquine were underprescribed before our assessment. Twelve percent of patients required biologics. Hospitalizations related to disease activity or complications were required in 43.1%. Severe damage, measured by indication for orthopaedic, cardiothoracic or vascular surgery, need of chronic dialysis or long-term oxygen therapy and permanent neurologic deficits was present in 34.5% of the patients. Three patients died. Regarding infectious comorbidities, 12.1% of patients were diagnosed with tuberculosis, 8.6% had chronic hepatitis B infection and 12.1% had evidence of previous contact with hepatitis B virus.

Abstract AB1271 – Figure 1

Conclusions: PALOP patients present with long-lasting and severe rheumatic diseases with chronic damage, due to lack of precise diagnosis, ineffective referrals and lack of appropriate treatment. They also frequently present with important infectious comorbidities and social needs that may delay treatment. Despite the obvious advantages of the evacuation of patients to a more resourceful country, we believe there is a need for identification of onsite barriers and improvement of local awareness on Rheumatic diseases and Rheumatology speciality.

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AB1272 INCREASING STRENGTHS OF EVIDENCE FOR ROLE OF NURSES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: RESULTS OF A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

V. Lion, M. Schirmer. *Internal Medicine, Clinic II, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, Innsbruck, Austria*

Background: In 2011 EULAR first published European recommendations for the potential role of nurses in the management of patients with rheumatic diseases.¹ Since then, the EULAR recommendations were well disseminated and positively evaluated both across Europe and the United States (US).²

Objectives: To assess new evidence for the role of nurses in the management of chronic inflammatory arthritis (CIA) obtained since the 2011 EULAR recommendations.

Methods: A systematic literature search was performed for the time between 1/2010 and 9/2016 based on the PRISMA guidelines, using the search strategies and eligibility criteria and categorising evidence as did the EULAR taskforce.

Results: A total of 44 articles and 10 abstracts were identified fulfilling the eligibility and exclusion criteria. Strong new evidence exists for recommendation 3 with nurse-led telephone services to enhance continuity of care and to provide ongoing support (evidence level 3), and – at least in part – for recommendation 6, that nurses should promote self-efficacy (evidence level 1B) and empowerment (evidence level 2B), but sense of control was not studied. Some new evidence also exists for recommendations 7 and 8 (level 2B).

Conclusions: This literature review reveals new evidence for a role of nurses in managing CIA-patients especially with RA and in stable and low disease activity, and thus further supports the existing 2011 EULAR-recommendations.

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AB1273 UPTAKE OF PNEUMOCOCCAL AND INFLUENZA VACCINATION IN PATIENTS RECEIVING BIOLOGICAL DMARDS (bDMARDS) IN IRELAND

W.L. Ng^{1,2}, A. Anjum^{1,2}, A. Sebastian^{1,2}, M. Brady^{1,2}, E. Fitzgerald², B. McCarthy², M. Gillespie¹, J.P. Doran¹, J. Devlin^{1,2}, A. Fraser^{1,2}. ¹Rheumatology, University Hospital Limerick, ²Rheumatology, Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, Limerick, Ireland

Background: Biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) have made significant positive outcomes in the lives of patients with rheumatic disease. This treatment has proven efficacy in delaying joint destruction and inducing disease remission.¹ Studies have shown that pneumococcal vaccination is cost effective while the influenza vaccination significantly prevents morbidity and mortality in the elderly and in patients with chronic disease.¹

Objectives: To evaluate the pneumococcal and influenza vaccination status in patients receiving biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs).

Methods: Patients on bDMARDs attending the rheumatology infusion unit were asked about their vaccination status on pneumococcal and influenza using a questionnaire. The patients' diagnosis, current bDMARD and reasons for not having had vaccination were recorded.

Results: 92 patients were recruited. Mean age of 53.2 years with 63 (68.5%) female and 29 (31.5%) male. A total of 30 (32.6%) patients received both pneumococcal and influenza vaccination, 1 (1.1%) received pneumococcal vaccination alone, 22 (23.9%) received influenza vaccination alone and 39 (42.4%) had neither. Of the 18 (19.6%) patients age >65 years, 5 (27.8%) received influenza vaccination alone and 8 (44.4%) received both. Patients who did not receive vaccinations were given an educational booklet.

The most common diagnosis from our cohort was rheumatoid arthritis (37%), followed by spondyloarthritis (13%), Behçet's disease (9.8%), myositis (7.6%), vasculitis (5.4%), systemic lupus erythematosus (5.4%), psoriatic arthritis (4.4%) and others (17.4%). 48 (52.2%) were on rituximab, 37 (40.2%) on infliximab, 6 (6.5%) were on tocilizumab and 1 (1.1%) was on abatacept.

Of the 61 (66.3%) patients who did not receive the pneumococcal vaccine, 44 (72.1%) were unaware of its availability, 6 (9.8%) were not interested in receiving it, 4 (6.6%) were afraid of the side effects, 4 (6.6%) declined vaccination and 3 (4.9%) were unaware it was recommended. 40 (43.5%) who did not receive the influenza vaccine stated that they were either unaware (45%), not interested (25%), declined vaccination (10%), forgotten (5%), unaware it was recommended (5%) and afraid of the side effects (2.5%). 3 (7.5%) had previous bad experiences from influenza vaccination.

Conclusions: This is the first study in Ireland looking at vaccination uptake in patients on bDMARDs. The vaccination rate in our cohort was less than satisfactory. Patients on immunosuppressants are recommended to have these vaccinations and preferably to receive them before commencing on the immunosuppressants.² The lack of awareness is the main reason for failure to be vaccinated. Hence, primary care physicians and the rheumatology team should take active roles in increasing awareness amongst patients about the recommendation for pneumococcal and influenza vaccination.

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AB1274

THE EFFECT OF IMPLEMENTING AN ONLINE PATIENT HEALTH RECORD AIMING TO PROMOTE PATIENT PARTICIPATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS ON THE USE OF DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTIRHEUMATIC DRUGS AND OUTCOME IN DAILY CLINICAL PRACTICE

W.D. Müskens¹, S.A.A. Rongen-van Dartel^{1,2}, E. Adang³, P.L. van Riel^{1,2}. ¹IQ Healthcare, Radboud UMC, Nijmegen; ²Rheumatology, Bernhoven, Uden; ³Health Evidence, Radboud UMC, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Background: Current guidelines say that there should be a prominent place for patient participation and shared decision making in rheumatic care.

To achieve this Bernhoven introduced an online patient health record (OPHR) for patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) aiming to facilitate self management and giving insight in the individual disease course in April 2014. This platform enables patients to monitor their disease by completing questionnaires about for instance pain, fatigue and quality of life. It also gives access to their medication history and offers patients information in the form of an online library.

Objectives: This study analyses how the introduction of an OPHR, aiming to promote patient participation, influences the prescription of DMARD's and the disease activity (DAS28) in daily clinical practice. A distinction was made between the effects of the PHR on patients recently diagnosed with RA (study A) and the RA population as a whole (study B).

Methods: In April 2014 anan OPHR for patients with RA was introduced at the rheumatology department of Bernhoven.

Using data from the rheumatology department registry, two analyses were performed to evaluate this implementation.

Study A compared the treatment and course of DAS28 of patients diagnosed in the period three years prior to the implementation ("prior group") with those diagnosed in the period three years after the implementation ("after group").

Study B was an observational study that examined yearly trends for DMARD use and DAS28 for the whole RA population between April 2011 and April 2017

Results: Study A

A total of 287 patients were diagnosed with RA of which 127 were in the prior group and 171 in the after group. CsDMARD's were given 160 days [95%>CI 123–198] after diagnosis in the "prior group" versus (vs.) 32 days [95%>CI 22–43] in the after group. Next to that there was an increase in cumulative time csDMARD's were used during follow-up, 54% vs. 74% (p-value<0.001). Also, more patients received csDMARD combination therapy, 49% vs. 64% (p-value=0.001). There was no difference in number of patients that started a bDMARD, 7% vs. 14% (p-value=0.059). However, a significant larger group started with a bDMARD in the first year after start of csDMARD therapy in the after group, 3.1% vs. 9.9% (p-value 0.024). 39% of the prior group vs. 69% in the after group achieved either remission or LDA within the first year of DMARD therapy (p-value<0.001).

Study B

The trend analysis of DMARD use in the RA population is plotted in figure 1. Between 2011 and 2017 a change in trend can be observed for the use of csDMARD's, the use of csDMARD combination and the use of bDMARD csDMARD combination therapy. The usage of bDMARD therapy did not change.

Abstract AB1274 – Figure 1. Trends in DMARD prescription, per yearly period

Conclusions: After the introduction of the OPHR patients recently diagnosed with RA got earlier and more intense treatment, with a more prominent role for biologicals. Next to that a bigger proportion of patients recently diagnosed with RA achieved remission and LDA within the first year of DMARD therapy. When looking for trends in the total RA population, an increase of the use of csDMARD's, the use of csDMARD combination and the use of bDMARD csDMARD combination therapy was observed after April 2014.

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AB1275

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOURNAL OF ANNALS OF THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES FROM 2012 TO 2016: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Y. Tetik-Aydogdu¹, O. Aydogdu², Z. Sari². ¹Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Haydarpasa Numune Education and Research Hospital, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation; ²Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Marmara University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Rheumatology, a subspecialty of medicine, is devoted to diagnosis and therapy of rheumatic diseases, including clinical problems in joints, soft tissues, and autoimmune diseases. "Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases" is one of the most read and prestigious journals in the field of rheumatology. Bibliometric studies concerning the quantity and quality of articles published in rheumatology journals are scarce. The scientific production in the field of rheumatology from 1996 to 2010 was compared by Cheng.¹ On the other hand, as to our knowledge, there is no study investigating research contribution to Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases since 2012.

Objectives: This study aims to investigate countries' research contribution in the field of rheumatology by classifying scientific papers according to their countries between 2012 and 2016 in Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, official journal of EULAR.

Methods: All scientific papers which were published from 2012 to 2016 in Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases were screened. Some scientific papers such as editorial, viewpoint notes, or letters were excluded. In addition, supplementary issues were excluded as well. Rest of the papers were separated in two different part: "clinical and epidemiological research" and "basic and translational research". The papers were investigated one-by-one to determine their countries. All papers were classified according to their corresponding author.

Results: A total of 1616 scientific papers were investigated. Totally 1092 papers were included. While clinical and epidemiological research included 753 articles, basic and translational research contained 339 articles. There are 211, 188, 260, 235, 198 published articles in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, respectively. In 2012, 2014 and 2015 the top countries to publish articles in Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases are England, Netherlands and USA. In 2013 and 2016, France is in the list of top countries instead of Netherlands. While, 46, 37 and 37 articles were published from England, Netherlands and USA, respectively in 2012, 53, 35 and 18 articles were published from England, USA and France, respectively in 2016.

Conclusions: According to our results, Western Europe and USA clearly dominate the production of scientific papers in Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, official journal of EULAR. Our results are in accordance with the literature. We conclude that research resources, financial and other some issues may contribute the publishing process.

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AB1276

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-MEDICAL SWITCHING FROM ORIGINATOR BIOLOGICS TO BIOSIMILARS – A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Y. Liu¹, V. Garg², M. Yang³, E.Q. Wu³, M. Skup². ¹Division of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, The University of Missouri, Kansas City; ²AbbVie, Chicago; ³Analysis Group, Inc., Boston, USA

Background: Biosimilars, often priced at a discounted rate of originator biologics, may prompt switching patients from originator biologics to biosimilars for non-medical reasons. However, other relevant costs (e.g., non-medical switching (NMS) program setup, costs of concomitant therapies, additional healthcare resource utilisation [HRU]) associated with NMS are not well understood.