Our findings demonstrated that parity was significantly associated with decreased risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in the Malaysian population. The association between parity and risk of RA was uniform across all subgroups, with a relative risk of 0.48 (95% CI 0.34–0.66, p<0.001) compared with nulliparous women, by calculating odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI).

Results: Our findings demonstrated that parity was significantly associated with decreased risk of developing RA in the Malaysian population. The association between parity and risk of RA was uniform across all subgroups, with a relative risk of 0.48 (95% CI 0.34–0.66, p<0.001) compared with nulliparous women, by calculating odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI).

Conclusions: Our data demonstrated that parity and level of three and more live births was associated with decreased risk of developing RA in the Malaysian population.