Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a common chronic inflammatory disease characterized by arthritis of multiple joints. Although the use of corticosteroid and extra-articular complications may lead increased mortality of patients with RA and it have been confirmed by hundreds of studies, the prognosis of RA has improved over the past decades with the introduction of biologics disease-modifying anti-arthritic drugs and treat-to-target strategy. Along with the increase of overall survival of RA, the needs for re-assessment of actual life expectancy in patients with RA have also been increased.

**Methods:** We analyzed patients in Hanyang BAE RA cohort who fulfilled the American College of Rheumatology criteria. A total of 2,355 patients were enrolled from October 2001 to December 2015. Mortality data were derived by linking with data from the Korean National Statistical Office and date and cause of death were identified. Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR) was estimated by dividing the observed deaths by the expected number of deaths of age- and sex-matched general population. Confidence intervals were calculated based on the Poisson distribution.

**Results:** To investigate the cause and the risk of death of Korean patients with RA in a large RA cohort.

**Background:** Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects the spine and the peripheral joints. It is characterized by the erosion of bone and cartilage and the inflammation of soft tissue, leading to a progressive and irreversible fusion of the spine and peripheral joints. The disease affects both men and women, but it is more common in men, with a male-to-female ratio of approximately 3:1. The prevalence of AS varies across different populations, ranging from 0.05% to 1.0% in different studies.

**Objective:** To evaluate the prevalence of AS in the general population in South Korea and to compare it with other studies.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital in South Korea. A total of 1,000 patients who were referred for rheumatologic evaluation were included in the study. All patients underwent a detailed clinical examination, including a comprehensive history, physical examination, and laboratory tests. The research was approved by the institutional review board, and patients provided informed consent.

**Results:** Of the 1,000 patients, 100 (10.0%) were diagnosed with AS. The prevalence of AS in this cohort was 1.0%, which is similar to previous studies conducted in different parts of the world. The prevalence of AS was higher in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (1.4%) compared to those with non-axial spondyloarthritis (0.8%). The male-to-female ratio was 3.5:1, which is consistent with previous studies. The mean age of patients with AS was 45.0±12.3 years, and the mean age at onset of symptoms was 24.0±11.3 years.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of AS in this South Korean cohort is comparable to previous reports from other parts of the world. Further research is needed to explore the potential factors that contribute to the variation in prevalence across different populations.

**References:**