Shame due to oral health
Shame relating to poor oral health.

Oral care

RA medications caused dry mouth
The medications, really, really are awful on your mouth, in particular prednisone. I get very raw.

Complicated oral care
Time-demanding oral care routines.
We have to have toothbrushes with a wide handle… and different attachments when we need them.

Access to professional oral care
Lack of dental insurance and costs of care
Even with those [special] products, the pain sometimes was just overwhelming. I'm dedicated about brushing my teeth, but boy, it was a struggle. It took me a long time to brush my teeth.

Shame due to oral health
Shame relating to poor oral health.
I would feel ashamed. Something's wrong. Everyone around me has these beautiful teeth. I don't.

References:

Disclosure of Interests: Rinie Geenen Speakers bureau: Sanofi Genzyme paid for a lecture on depression in RA.

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PARE0023
ORAL HEALTH IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: LISTENING TO PATIENTS

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Background: Rates of periodontal disease and tooth loss are increased in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Periodontal disease may exacerbate RA inflammation and complicate RA care. Understanding factors that contribute to the increased burden of periodontal disease in RA is critical to improving oral health and possibly on disease outcomes. People with RA may have unique needs and/or barriers to maintain oral health.

Objectives: To determine from people with RA what are their experiences and perceptions about their oral health, their most important questions relating to oral health, and how they wish to receive oral health information.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with RA patients. Recorded interview transcripts underwent iterative content analysis. Transcripts were initially reviewed to develop a coding guide. Latent content, or larger themes, were then applied to the transcripts. Constructs were considered saturated when no new themes were identified with subsequent interviews. We report identified themes with representative quotes.

Results: Interviews with 11 RA (10/91% female; all on RA medication) averaged 19 minutes (range 8–31 minutes) and were mostly conducted face-to-face. Many believed RA medication contributed to dry mouth. Most participants had not previously considered other links between oral health and RA. Themes identified included the need for complicated oral health routines, barriers of cost and access to dental care, and shame relating to oral health (Table 1). Participants preferred to receive oral health education from their rheumatologists or dentists over printed or online resources.

Conclusion: RA patients have unique needs relating to oral health and report poor oral quality of life. Strategies to optimize oral health in RA may include educational tools for optimizing oral self-care appropriate for RA, and improved access to oral care professionals who are aware of the needs of arthritis patients.


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PARE0024
AWARENESS ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING AND PREGNANCY EXPECTATION AMONG PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE OF THE SKIN OR JOINTS

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Background: Patients affected by chronic inflammatory diseases of the skin or joints (CIDs; including psoriasis [PSO], rheumatoid arthritis [RA], juvenile idiopathic arthritis [JIA], psoriatic arthritis [PsA], non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis [nr-axSpA]; reported in the survey as ‘axSpA’), or ankylosing spondylitis [AS]) may be challenged in their attempts to have children. A multinational survey conducted in Europe and the US, including 969 patients, revealed that most text boxes, bulleted text, and illustrations). Needed materials should be included.

Results: In the booklet, factors that may influence fatigue are demonstrated by a hanging mobile toy, a device with stars or other figures hanging from the ceiling. If one piece moves, all the other pieces move as well. Every individual piece that is part of the mobile influences the other. However, every mobile is different. The large differences in balance between components of mobiles can be compared to the large variety of influences on fatigue in people. Patients first need to identify which factors seem especially important of their own fatigue by sorting seven cards that are included in the booklet. They put the factor of which they think that it most influences their fatigue at the top and the factor that least influences their fatigue at the bottom. The seven cards are:
1) severe overweight,
2) disease activity,
3) day-night rhythm and sleep,
4) physical activity,
5) emotions and negative thoughts,
6) pain, and
7) another influence.

Interventions targeting these factors are discussed in separate sections of the booklet. Users are invited to start reading the sections with advice regarding the factors that most influence their fatigue. The foldable back cover of the booklet includes the set of seven cards of influencing factors, a diagram to make a 7-day 24-hours day-night rhythm schedule, and instructions to make an action plan.

Conclusion: In the Netherlands, the text can be obtained online and as a booklet in rheumatology departments of hospitals and through a national patient association, free of charge. The booklet was translated into English, which makes it accessible to a larger group of patients. It may take up to two months to successfully change lifestyle. It’s an, as yet not empirically verified, hope that the booklet will be more successful than a traditional educational brochure.

Table. Thematic analysis and quotes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral-RA links</td>
<td>RA medications caused dry mouth</td>
<td>The medications, really, really are awful on your mouth, in particular prednisone. I get very raw gums... it [was] painful to brush my teeth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complicated oral care</td>
<td>Time-demanding oral care routines.</td>
<td>The severe pain made it very hard to open my mouth to brush my teeth. The joint damage [makes] it really hard to handle a toothbrush.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to professional oral care</td>
<td>Lack of dental insurance and costs of care</td>
<td>We have to have toothbrushes with a wide handle… and different attachments when we need them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shame due to oral health</td>
<td>Shame relating to poor oral health.</td>
<td>I would feel ashamed. Someone’s wrong. Everyone around me has these beautiful teeth. I don’t, and something is wrong. I’m getting braces. At my age, I’m getting braces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>