Most European patients would agree to change treatment to lower pain. Almost 82% stated they would accept rare adverse events in order to avoid invalidity, to confirm a better future outcome. US patients were more prone to stick to current therapy than escalate to increase clinical response. However, asked about novel therapies, Romanians were reluctant to changing treatment despite insufficient benefit, if the risk of cancer was noted. There was a high agreement that a delay in treatment would be unsatisfactory for both familial and professional chores.

Conclusion: There are regional differences in knowledge and perceptions about RA treatment. Romanian patients know less on T2T algorithm. Improving awareness of the T2T strategy among RA patients may need different types of support depending on the patient's place of residence.

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AB1270 RHEUMATOLOGY WORKFORCE IN LATIN AMERICA: TRAINING AND CURRENT STATUS

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Background: The demand for rheumatology care has been steadily increasing over the last few years. However, supply seems to be insufficient, according to previous research¹. This situation may be at least partly explained by less physicians beginning a rheumatology residency program².

Objectives: We aim to identify baseline data, room for change, and to strengthen functional processes associated with the rheumatology workforce in order to improve care offered to patients living with rheumatic diseases.

Methods: Descriptive cross-sectional study. We obtained data on each country through local PANLAR rheumatologists. They completed an online survey using the RedCap® platform, used for capture and storage of data. The sample was described according to the type of variable.

Results: 19 Latin American countries were included in this study, globally 1 rheumatologist was available per 106,838 inhabitants. The highest rates were found in Uruguay (1 per 23.695 inhabitants) and Argentina (1 per 40.384 inhabitants). The lowest rates were found in Nicaragua (1 per 640.648 inhabitants) and Guatemala (1 per 559.902 inhabitants). The ratio between women and men rheumatologists was 0,99 women per each man. The lowest proportions were found in Peru (0,26:1), and the highest in the Dominican Republic (2,5:1). The average age for rheumatologists was 51,6 (SD12,75). Lowest average ages were found in Paraguay (43,1 SD10,77) and the highest age averages were found in Peru (56,23 SD12,93). The average monthly compensation was USD \$2.382,6 (SD\$1.462,5). Venezuela had the lowest salary (\$197), the highest salary was found in Costa Rica (\$4.500). The proportion of rheumatologists trained abroad was 26,7%, ranging between 0% in Uruguay and 90% in Bolivia.

The countries with more rheumatology training programs were Brazil n = 50 and Mexico n = 20, while Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua don't have any. The

countries with the greatest amount of active residents were Brazil (n = 252) and Argentina (n = 100). The educational level required to enter the program was postgraduate studies in internal medicine in 42.11% of the programs. Currently, 108 residency programs in Latin America are active. Duration of residency programs is variable: 2 years (79.63% of cases), 3 years (16.67%), 4 years (1.85%), 5 years (0.96%) or 6 years (0.96%). The median monthly compensation for residents was \$ 528 USD (IQR \$ 774), the country with the highest payment was Costa Rica (\$ 2637). Contrarily, in Cuba, Chile and Colombia there is no payment to residents. Finally, in 8 countries (42.11%) residents must not pay for their postgraduate studies, the average annual tuition expense in the rest of countries is \$ 1248 (SD \$ 2749).

Conclusion: The rate of rheumatologists per inhabitant is low. The demographic characteristics and the current status of the rheumatology workforce, as well as rheumatology training in Latin-America varies widely among countries. For instance, relevant differences can be found regarding payment to rheumatologists and residents, and tuition fees. The collected information will be useful when planning regional-based strategies, as well as for future research projects in each country and within PANLAR.

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AB1271 PATIENT EDUCATION IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A SERVICE EVALUATION AT ONE YEAR

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Background: Recent studies have demonstrated an increasing burden of musculoskeletal (MSK) diseases worldwide.¹ The importance of patient education (PE) is often overlooked in the management of long term inflammatory conditions. The European League Against Rheumatism recommends that PE should be integral to standard of care in inflammatory arthritis.² PE increases patients' knowledge, skills and confidence in managing their condition and improves patient activation (PA). Evidence shows that improved PA results in better outcomes and improved experiences of care. We previously reported on improved knowledge and confidence amongst a small patient group with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) who had attended a pilot education session.³ This education session was delivered to a wider group of patients with PsA over a 12 month period; we report on the evaluation received from this service.

Objectives: To provide a PE programme to a wider group of patients with PsA, using a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach and to evaluate whether this improved patients' knowledge, skills and confidence in managing their PsA.

Methods: Adult patients with PsA attending their rheumatology clinic appointments were invited to a 2.5 hour MDT education session which covered: 1) a general overview of PsA; 2) medications used in PsA; 3) the role of physiotherapy and occupational therapy; 4) flares and self- management. These were interactive sessions, held in a small group setting to allow for informal discussion and questions to the MDT. Written materials including several booklets and online resources were also provided. Patients evaluated their knowledge or understanding before and after each topic covered, on the same day, using an evaluation tool with 1-10 Likert scale items. Changes in ratings were analysed using student's t-tests. Patients were also asked: which aspects they found particularly helpful; if there was anything they would like to have added/ have more of in the session; whether they found the session helpful; whether they would recommend