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POS0324 **OBESITY IS A RISK FACTOR FOR POOR RESPONSE TO TREATMENT IN EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS - A NORD-STAR SPIN-OFF STUDY**

**Keywords:** Randomized control trial, Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis

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**Background:** Several therapeutic options are currently available to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA); however, the response to treatment is highly variable, and not all patients achieve clinical remission [1]. Obesity is suggested to lower the chances of remission [2], even though a recent observational study has shown that obesity is not associated with reduced response to conventional synthetic anti-rheumatic drugs in patients with early RA [3].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to determine if obesity affects the response to treatment in participants with early RA.

**Methods:** This report includes 393 Swedish patients from the NORD-STAR study, which is a multicenter, randomized trial on 812 patients with untreated early RA [4]. The 393 participants have been randomized at baseline into 4 arms of treatment: methotrexate combined with (1) prednisolone, (2) certolizumab, (3) abatacept, or (4) tocilizumab. Scores for disease activity and blood samples were measured and collected before randomization and at 24-week follow-up. Multiple linear regression and binary logistic regression analyses were performed after adjustment for sex, baseline age, anti-citrullinated peptide antibody status, current smoking, disease activity score- C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP), and treatment randomization. The outcomes for this report were: DAS28-CRP  $\leq 3.2$  (DAS28-CRP low disease activity), DAS28-CRP  $\leq 2.6$  (DAS28-CRP remission) and clinical disease activity index (CDAI)  $\leq 2.8$  (CDAI remission).

**Results:** In total, 75 (19%) participants had obesity at baseline, defined as body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The percentage of patients with obesity in each treatment group was (1) 25%, (2) 15%, (3) 19% and (4) 19%. At baseline, there were no differences in terms of disease activity indices and inflammation parameters between patients with BMI  $< 30$  vs.  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, except for the number of

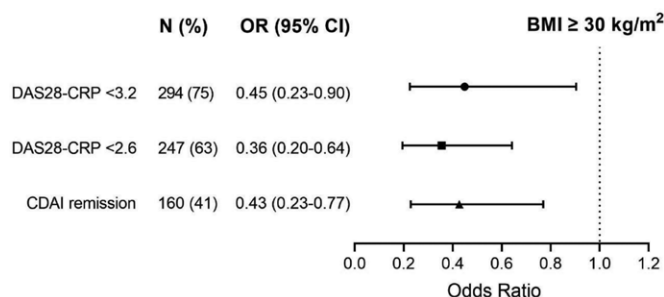
swollen joints (SJC28), which was slightly lower in those with obesity (mean $\pm$ SD, 8 $\pm$ 5 vs. 9 $\pm$ 5,  $p=0.018$ ). At 24-week follow-up, patients with obesity had higher disease activity indices and inflammation parameters compared to patients with lower BMI (Table 1). Moreover, patients with obesity had a lower chance of achieving response to treatment as measured by DAS28-CRP  $\leq 3.2$  (OR 0.5, 95% CI 0.2 - 0.9,  $p=0.025$ ), DAS28-CRP  $\leq 2.6$  (OR 0.4, 95% CI 0.2 - 0.6,  $p < 0.001$ ) and CDAI remission (OR 0.4, 95% CI 0.2 - 0.8,  $p=0.006$ ), compared to patients with lower BMI (Figure 1). BMI-treatment interaction was not significant for any score of disease activity.

**Conclusion:** In patients with early RA, obesity was not associated with higher disease activity before treatment initiation. However, 24 weeks after treatment, patients with obesity had higher disease activity and lower chances to respond to therapy compared to patients with lower BMI irrespective of treatment.

**Table 1. Disease activity scores and inflammatory parameters at 24 weeks follow-up stratified by baseline BMI**

	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )		P-values
	< 30	$\geq 30$	
DAS28-ESR	2.2 $\pm$ 1.1	2.8 $\pm$ 1.2	<0.001
DAS28-CRP	2.1 $\pm$ 0.9	2.6 $\pm$ 1.0	<0.001
CDAI	5.0 $\pm$ 5.3	7.5 $\pm$ 6.4	0.001
SJC28	0.7 $\pm$ 1.4	0.9 $\pm$ 1.4	0.418
TJC28	1.8 $\pm$ 3.1	3.0 $\pm$ 4.2	0.256
Global VAS, patient, mm	17 $\pm$ 18	25 $\pm$ 22	<0.001
Global VAS, investigator, mm	8 $\pm$ 9	11 $\pm$ 11	0.018
ESR, mm/h	11 $\pm$ 10	15 $\pm$ 16	0.031
CRP, mg/L	2.2 $\pm$ 3.1	4.4 $\pm$ 7.1	<0.001

Abbreviations: TJC28, tender joint count; VAS, visual analogue scale of pain; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate.



**Figure 1.** Multivariable binary logistic regression analysis for response to treatment at 24 weeks (reference category: BMI < 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

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POS0325 **RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS AND WEATHER PATTERNS: A RHUMADATA™ STUDY OF 14,200 PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES MATCHED WITH METEOROLOGICAL DATA**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

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**Background:** Anecdotally, patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) report seasonal changes in their symptoms. Anatomically, atmospheric pressure variations are captured by baroreceptors, which may generate this perception.

**Objectives:** To correlate seasonal changes with subjective assessment scores.

**Methods:** Environment Canada provided meteorological data from 2015 to 2020 for Montreal (Dorval). Hourly measurements of temperature, relative humidity, and pressure were available. We matched daily meteorological data with patient-reported pain (PtP), fatigue (PtF), and disease activity (PtGA) assessments from RHUMADATA™ participants. We calculated daily means, minimums, and maximums, as well as changes from the previous day for the winter and summer months. For the years 2015 to 2020, Pearson Correlation Coefficients (PCCs) were computed between Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) and weather measurements. Optimal regression models (OM) were derived based on Akaike's Information Criteria (AIC).

**Results:** RA patients' PROs were matched with meteorological data (7411 winter measurements and 6789 summer measurements). At the time of the first PRO assessment, the mean age and disease duration were 60.1(13.5) and 10.5

(10.4), and 74.6% of patients were women. Patients provided an average of 14 PROs. In winter, PtP, PtF and PtGA were 3.48 (2.79), 3.49 (2.96) and 3.42 (2.66), and 3.45 (2.81), 3.46 (2.96) and 3.33 (2.63) in summer. PtGA was statistically higher in winter (p-value=0.0379). PCC and OMs are shown in Table 1. In winter, all correlations are very weak (less than 0.19). PtGA is not correlated with any weather measures in both winter and summer. PtP and PtF correlate with some weather measures in both seasons.

**Conclusion:** In this study of 14200 weather-matched PROs, mean PtP, PtF, and PtGA scores are higher in winter among RA patients, but the differences are small. Few meteorological measures are significantly correlated with PROs, and all correlations are very weak. Meteorological variables explain a quite small percentage of the variation in PRO variation (small R-square). No consistent relationship between PROs and meteorological conditions is reported by other smaller studies.

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POS0326 **POLYGENIC RISK SCORE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PREDICTS BONY EROSION**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics

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**Background:** Polygenic risk scores (PRS) are widely used to estimate disease risks and predict clinical outcomes. However, differences exist among PRS derived from genome-wide association study (GWAS) of ethnicities across the globe.

**Objectives:** We aimed to build up PRS for predicting the development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in a Taiwanese population and investigate whether PRS of RA may be associated with bone erosion.

**Methods:** We constructed PRS using GWAS data from a hospital-based cohort of 2044 RA cases and 7950 non-RA controls participating in the Taiwan Precision Medicine Initiative. LDpred2, PLINK and PRSice2 models were used to evaluate the area under curve (AUC) of RA susceptibility in both training and testing datasets (1022 RA cases and 3975 controls).

Table 1. Pearson correlation coefficients and "best" regression models.

	Winter (Dec 1st to Mar 31st)				Summer (Jun 1st to Sep 30th)							
	PtP		PtF		PtGA		PtP		PtF		PtGA	
	PCC <sup>1,2</sup>	OM <sup>3</sup>	PCC	OM	PCC	OM	PCC <sup>1</sup>	OM	PCC	OM	PCC	OM
<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>		0.0016		0.0023		0.0010		0.0004		0.0016		0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>		7.637		9.934		3.317		3.515		3.521		3.457
<b>Temperature</b>	Min	-0.011	0.043	-0.024 δ	-0.015	0.005	0.005	-0.001	0.002	0.006	0.000	0.004
	Max	-0.018		-0.030 γ	-0.023	0.001	0.004	0.003	-0.018	-0.003	-0.004	-0.003
	Mean	-0.016	-0.054	-0.030 γ	-0.015	0.000	0.000	-0.018	-0.003	-0.004	-0.004	-0.003
	Mean-Mean <sup>4</sup>	0.006		0.008	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.018	-0.003	-0.004	-0.004	-0.003
	Min-Max <sup>4</sup>	0.002	0.013	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.003	-0.003	-0.003	-0.004	-0.004	-0.004
	Max-Min <sup>4</sup>	0.013		0.019	-0.017	0.008	-0.004	-0.030 δ	-0.035	-0.003	-0.003	-0.003
<b>Relative humidity</b>	Min	0.024 δ		0.026 δ	0.012	-0.005	-0.015	-0.015	-0.015	-0.010	-0.010	-0.010
	Max	0.012		0.022	0.004	-0.006	0.000	-0.018	-0.018	-0.013	-0.013	-0.013
	Mean	0.027 δ		0.028 δ	0.015	0.009	-0.007	-0.021	-0.021	-0.015	-0.015	-0.015
	Mean-Mean	0.014		0.013	0.012	-0.006	-0.006	-0.008	-0.008	-0.006	-0.006	-0.006
	Min-Max	-0.009		-0.004	-0.006	0.001	0.001	0.005	0.005	-0.001	-0.001	-0.001
	Max-Min	-0.020		0.025 δ	0.014	-0.006	-0.006	-0.011	-0.011	-0.008	-0.008	-0.008
<b>Atmospheric pressure</b>	Min	-0.015		-0.022	-0.006	-0.012	-0.007	0.011	0.048	0.006	0.006	0.003
	Max	-0.013	-0.004	-0.020	-0.015	-0.006	0.002	0.002	-0.045	-0.001	-0.001	0.003
	Mean	-0.013		-0.020	-0.015	-0.006	0.006	0.006	-0.045	0.002	0.002	0.002
	Mean-Mean	-0.013		-0.020	-0.012	0.001	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.014	0.014	0.014
	Min-Max	-0.008		-0.019	-0.014	0.000	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.009	0.009	0.009
	Max-Min	-0.013		-0.019	-0.005	0.003	0.011	0.026 δ	0.026	0.020	0.020	0.020

<sup>1</sup> PCC=Pearson Correlation Coefficients. <sup>2</sup> γ: 0.001<p≤0.01, δ: 0.01<p≤0.05. <sup>3</sup> The best model was selected by computing Akaike's Information Criteria (AIC) for all possible subsets of multiple regression models for main effects. The model with the smallest AIC value is deemed the "best" model. <sup>4</sup> Difference from the previous day.