

COVID-19 AND THE PRACTICE OF RHEUMATOLOGY IN AFRICA



We at the COVID-19 African Rheumatology Study Group are delighted to have you share your experience with us regarding the changes to the delivery of rheumatology service in your centre since the advent of the COVID-19 outbreak.

We are gathering this information across most countries of Africa where there are rheumatologists and/or rheumatology fellows who are already delivering care to rheumatologic patients.

This survey will not be collecting any identifiers regarding the respondent. It will take approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete and by completing and submitting the survey, you are consenting to the study. If you have any questions or concerns, please email info@covarsg.org

Thank you.

1) Gender: *

Male

Female

Other - Write In: _____

2) Age (years)*

3) Country of practice*

- Algeria
- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic (CAR)
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo, Democratic Republic of the
- Congo, Republic of the
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius

- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

4) City/Town of practice*

5) Years of practice of rheumatology*

- I am still in training
 - I am a consultant/specialist- Write in number of years:
-

*

6) Scope of practice*

- Adult rheumatology
- Paediatric rheumatology

Both

7) Practice setting

*

Academic hospital

Private hospital

Clinic: government owned/supported

Private group practice - multispecialty or all rheumatology

Private solo practice

Other (please specify): _____*

8) Have you been advising patients to self-isolate? *

Yes

No

9) Have you been advising patients to observe social distancing? *

Yes

No

10) Have you been advising patients to 'shield' (i.e complete removal from most human contact) against COVID-19? *

Yes

No

11) Have you had to issue workplace-adjustment or days-off letters for patients due to COVID-19 outbreak? *

Yes

No

12) Have you been advising patients to consider the use of complementary and alternative medicines due to COVID-19 outbreak?*

- Yes
- No

13) Have you been advising patients to consider the use of vitamins to boost their immunity against COVID-19?*

- Yes
- No

14) What changes have you made to your prescription habit of conventional synthetic DMARDs (e.g Methotrexate)? *

- none
- reduced dosing
- defer till after COVID is over
- stopped in patients who were stable on it

15) Have you been using Hydroxychloroquine more than before? *

- Yes
- No

**16) What changes have you made to your prescription habit of steroid?
check all applicable options***

- unchanged
- increased frequency of prescription
- increased dosing
- reduced dosing
- avoiding steroids

17) What changes have you made to your prescription habit of biologic DMARDs?*

- unchanged
- increased frequency of prescribing
- increased dosing
- reduced dosing
- avoiding biologics
- biologics are not available in our service

18) Have you prescribed Hydroxychloroquine/chloroquine to prevent against severe COVID-19 disease in a patient without the infection?*

- Yes
- No

19) Have you experienced Hydroxychloroquine shortage in your practice?*

- Yes
- No

**20) Have you had to adjust the dosing of Hydroxychloroquine in patients already on the drug?
check all applicable options***

- No
- Yes, reduced dose for supply to last
- Yes, increased dose for prevention against COVID-19
- Yes, switched to other DMARD due to shortage

21) In case of hydroxychloroquine shortage what DMARD do you use as substitute?

**22) What is your current type of out-patient service since the outbreak of COVID-19?
select all applicable options***

- none (all shut down)
- clinic visits as before

- face to face with some PPE use
- video consultation
- telephone consultation
- emails
- chats eg. WhatsApp

23) What mode of patient examination are you practicing?

select all applicable options*

- None
- reduced
- full exams with PPE
- pictures/videos
- full examinations as before COVID

24) What changes have come to rheumatology allied health professional clinics (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry etc) in your service?*

- We never had these in my centre
- We had but now shut down
- Service reduced since COVID-19 outbreak
- Still functioning as before

25) What changes have happened to blood monitoring for DMARDs in your service?*

- sustained as before
- reduced frequency
- suspended until after COVID-19 outbreak
- not offered in our service

26) Do you have personal health-related concerns that have led to adjustments in your service delivery in the face of COVID-19? *

- Yes
- No

27) Has any of your rheumatology patients developed COVID-19 disease?*

- Yes
- No

28) If any of your patients have contracted COVID-19 how many are they?

29) If any of your patients have contracted COVID-19 what is/are their primary rheumatological diagnoses?

list max of 3 separated by commas

30) If any of your patients have developed COVID-19 were they on Hydroxychloroquine?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

31) If any of your patients have developed COVID-19 have you contributed this information to any registry?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

32) Has the national rheumatology society in your country produced any specific guideline/recommendation around COVID-19?

- Yes
- No
- There is no national body

33) Is there any locally (in your centre) agreed protocol for use of DMARDs in the face of COVID-19 outbreak? *

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

34) Is there any national rheumatology COVID-19 registry in your country? *

- Yes
- No
- I am not aware of this

35) Have you had rheumatology patients who engage in the use of unprescribed Hydroxychloroquine/Chloroquine?*

- Yes
- No

36) Have you had rheumatology patients who engage in the use of unprescribed complementary and alternative medicines as prevention against COVID-19? *

- Yes
- No

37) Have you had rheumatology patients who are avoiding the hospital for the fear of contracting COVID-19?*

- Yes
- No

38) Have you had rheumatology patients who have exhibited unusual anxiety regarding their risk of catching COVID-19? *

- Yes

No

39) Have you had to deal with non-rheumatologic patients who engage in use of Hydroxychloroquine or request the prescription for prevention against COVID-19?*

Yes

No

40) Which of the following are immediate concerns you have?*

	Yes	No
Rheumatology patients getting infected with COVID-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catching the COVID-19 infection yourself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infecting your family members with COVID-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lost income from COVID-19 disruption of services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of skills as you have stopped performing certain roles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of new ways of running services if the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

pandemic prolongs		
Loss of academic and learning opportunities eg conferences etc	()	()

Thank You!
