Patient Experiences of Rheumatoid Arthritis Models of Care: An International Survey

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INTRODUCTION
A global survey of RA (self-reported) patients was conducted by 18 RA patient organizations from 25 countries across Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America (March 15 to June 9, 2017). The objectives of the survey were to identify common challenges and gaps in the RA patient journey at the population level across countries.

OBJECTIVES
• Key medical aspects were identified from existing data
• Medical aspects were finalized and translated
• The survey was conducted online through various patient organizations

METHODS
• The survey was conducted online from March 15 to June 9, 2017
• The survey used a list of key medical aspects to market the survey

RESULTS
Geographic Representation

Geographic Representation

Geographic Representation

Geographic Representation

Geographic Representation

Key Elements 1: RA Patients Recognize Symptoms and Seek Care
- Most respondents (60%) had recognized their RA diagnosis by remembering or a family member (Figures A, B, C, D).
- Most respondents (56%) reported that their RA diagnosis was made as a result of a rheumatologist consultation (Figures A, B, C, D).
- Most respondents (54%) had consulted a rheumatologist for their RA diagnosis (Figures A, B, C, D).

Key Elements 2: Access to Specialist Care
- The median time to the first visit with a rheumatologist was 4 months (Figures E, F).
- The median time from patients experiencing their first symptoms to visiting a rheumatologist for the first time was 3 months (Figures E, F).

Key Elements 3: Medical Management
- Most respondents (82%) reported that they had visited a rheumatologist within the last 12 months (Figures G, H).
- Most respondents (60%) had seen a rheumatologist at least once every 6 months (Figures G, H).

Key Elements 4 and 5: Shared Care and RA Patient Self-Care
- Most respondents (56%) reported that they had visited a rheumatologist within the last 12 months (Figures I, J).
- Most respondents (60%) had seen a rheumatologist at least once every 6 months (Figures I, J).

DISCLOSURES
None of the authors has a financial relationship with a commercial entity that has a direct interest in the findings of this study.

REFERENCES

LIMITATIONS
• Key medical aspects were identified from existing data
• Medical aspects were finalized and translated
• The survey was conducted online through various patient organizations

CONCLUSIONS
The findings of this study indicate that patients with RA have a complex disease that requires ongoing care and management. The survey results highlight the importance of early diagnosis and access to specialist care, as well as the need for ongoing medical management and patient self-care. The results also suggest that there is a need for improved communication and shared decision-making between patients and healthcare providers.

REFERENCES

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