

Supplementary Table I. Causes of death according to ICD-10 chapters in the early rheumatoid arthritis cohort (n=14,878).

	n	%
Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)	501	43.3
Neoplasms (C00-D48)	308	26.6
Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)	83	7.2
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (M00-M99)	53	4.6
Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93)	43	3.7
Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99)	32	2.8
Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99)	26	2.2
Accidents (V01-X59)	47	4.1
Other	111	5.5
Total	1,157	100.0

Supplementary Table II. Detailed classification of the cardiovascular causes of death (n=501) in the early rheumatoid arthritis cohort.

	n	%
I05-I09 Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	2	0.4
I10-I15 Hypertensive diseases	8	1.6
I20-I25 Ischaemic heart diseases	314	62.7
<i>*of which acute myocardial infarction (I21)</i>	133	
<i>*of which chronic ischaemic heart disease (I25)</i>	174	
I26-I28 Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation	5	1.0
I30-I52 Other forms of heart disease	37	7.4
<i>*of which endocarditis (I33)</i>	2	
<i>*of which heart failure (I50)</i>	9	
I60-I69 Cerebrovascular diseases	105	21.0
<i>*of which cerebral infarction (I63)</i>	58	
I70-I79 Diseases of arteries, arterioles and capillaries	26	5.2
<i>*of which aortic aneurysm and dissection (I71)</i>	17	
I80-I89 Diseases of veins, lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, not elsewhere classified	4	0.8
<i>*of which phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities (I80.0-I80.3)</i>	4	

Supplementary Table III. The comorbidities before death or the end of the follow-up in patients who died of CV disease (n=501), those who died of other causes (n=656), and those who survived (n=13,721).

Comorbidity	Prevalence in patient subsets, %		
	Survivors	CV death	Other death
Cardiac disease*	8.2	39.5	21.3
Hypertension without cardiac disease	15.0	26.6	15.8
Diabetes	4.9	15.6	9.8
Asthma or COPD	7.7	11.2	15.4
Prior malignancy	0.9	1.2	3.8

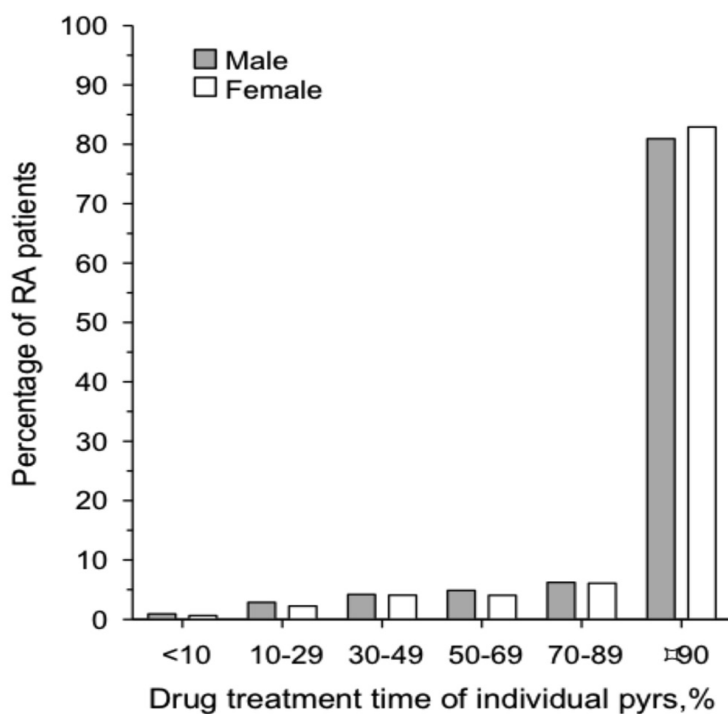
*Includes CHD, chronic CHF, chronic cardiac arrhythmias (with or without hypertension and hyperlipidaemia). CV: cardiovascular; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Supplementary Table IV. Percentages of drug use duration per individual patient-years (pyrs) for different cardiovascular disease medications.

Medication	Duration of medication use of individual pyrs, %			
	Survivors (n=13,721)	CV death (n=501)	Other death (n=656)	Total (n=14,878)
Beta blockers	44.6	62.0	46.3	45.6
Agents acting on the RAA system	42.6	47.6	36.0	42.4
Lipid modifying agents	30.3	23.7	15.6	29.0
Diuretics	19.6	51.2	35.3	22.3
Calcium channel blockers	21.0	22.4	19.6	21.0
Certain other CV drugs*	17.5	57.5	34.4	20.8
Diabetes medications, including insulin	18.9	34.9	22.7	20.1

pyrs: patient years; CV: cardiovascular; RAA: renin-angiotensin-aldosterone.

*ATC code C01: Cardiac glycosides, class I and III antiarrhythmic agents, sympathomimetics, vasodilators used in cardiac diseases including organic nitrates and other cardiac preparations.



Supplementary Fig. 1. The percentage of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients treated with any RA medication (anti-rheumatic agents or glucocorticoids) according to the drug use duration as a percentage of individual patient-years (pyrs).