
Information technology in rheumatology

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The editor and guest editors are pleased to present the 17th annual Supplement of *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology* concerning Contemporary Topics in Rheumatic Diseases.

The previous volumes in this series include:

- 1999 – Combination DMARD therapy in rheumatoid arthritis
- 2000 – Bone mass in the rheumatic diseases
- 2001 – Controversies in COX-2 inhibitor therapy
- 2002 – Innovative therapies for spondyloarthritides
- 2003 – Early arthritis
- 2004 – Benefit/risk of new drugs for rheumatoid arthritis
- 2005 – Quantitative clinical assessment of rheumatic diseases
- 2006 – Remission in rheumatic diseases
- 2007 – Quality of care in rheumatology: opportunities and challenges
- 2008 – Mortality in rheumatic diseases
- 2009 – Rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis: similarities and differences
- 2010 – Methotrexate in rheumatic diseases
- 2011 – Low-dose glucocorticoids in rheumatic diseases
- 2012 – Treat-to-target in rheumatic diseases
- 2013 – Possible discontinuation of therapies in rheumatic diseases
- 2014 – Optimising assessment in clinical trials, clinical research and clinical care
- 2015 – Psoriatic arthritis

The 2016 topic is Information Technology in Rheumatology.

The volume is divided into three sections:

a) patient questionnaires and measures; b) indices; c) studies, databases, and registries.

The section concerning patient questionnaires deals with the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) in Digital Health Assessment in Rheumatology, current and future possibilities by F.S. Catarinella and W.H. Bos; Rheumatoid Arthritis Disease Activity Index 5 (RADAI5) by B.F. Leeb, H.-P. Brezinschek, and B. Rintelen; Multidimensional Health Assessment Questionnaire (MDHAQ) by T. Pincus; paediatric questionnaires by A. Consolaro, E.M. Morgan, G. Giancane, S. Rosina, S. Lanni, and A. Ravelli; and Automated joint space width quantification of hand and wrist joints: a proof of concept study by Y. Huo, R.D. Veldhuizen, D. van der Heijde, N. J. Besselink, J.W.G. Jacobs, J.M. van Laar, M.A. Viergever, K.L. Vincken, F.P. Lafeber, and M.J.H. de Hair.

The section concerning indices includes the Disease Activity Score (DAS) and the Disease Activity Score using 28 joint counts (DAS28) in the management of rheumatoid arthritis by P.L.C.M. van Riel and L. Renskers, Information technology concerning Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) by D. Aletaha, M. Bécède, J. Smolen; Routine Assessment of Patient Index

Data (RAPID3) by T. Pincus; Health information technologies in systemic lupus erythematosus: focus on patient assessment by C. Tani, L. Trieste, V. Lorenzoni, S. Cannizzo, G. Turchetti, and M. Mosca; and Electronic assessment of disease activity and functioning in patients with axial spondyloarthritis: challenges and unmet needs by U. Kiltz, A. Boonen, J. Braun, and J.G. Richter.

The section concerning studies, databases, and registries includes Electronic health records in Rheumatology - emphasis on automated scoring and additional use by J.G. Richter, G. Chehab, and M. Schneider; The Computer-Assisted Management in Early Rheumatoid Arthritis programme tool used in the CAMERA-I and CAMERA-II studies by J.W.G. Jacobs on behalf of the Utrecht Rheumatoid Arthritis Cohort study group; Implementing the findings of the TICOPA trial in clinical practice – challenges in implementation and how IT can bridge the gap by L.C. Coates; Using an electronic platform interactively to improve treatment outcome in patients with rheumatoid arthritis – New developments from the DANBIO registry by M.L. Hetland, N.S. Krogh, K. Hørslev-Petersen, B. Schiøttz-Christensen, I.J. Sørensen, and D.V. Jensen; Primary and secondary patient data in contrast: the use of observational studies like RABBIT, by A. Richter, Y. Meißner, A. Strangfeld, and A. Zink; 10 years of METEOR (an international rheumatoid arthritis registry): development, research opportunities and future perspectives by S.A. Bergstra, P.M. Machado, R. van den Berg, R.B.M. Landewé, and T.W.J. Huizinga; The Corrona US Registry of Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases by J.M. Kremer; Go, go, GoTreatIT! by T. Sokka; the National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases (NDB) by K. Michaud; and Overview of the American College of Rheumatology's electronic health record-enabled registry: The Rheumatology Informatics System for Effectiveness by M. Francisco, T. Johansson, and S. Kazi.

As has been the general case with most previous volumes in this series, the articles range from summaries of well-developed observations in the rheumatology literature to future plans with only preliminary or even no available data at this point. That has been the policy for the spirit of these supplements, which have included early work concerning controversies of Cox-2 inhibitor therapy in 2001, remission in 2006, quality of care in 2007, treat-to-target in 2012, and possible discontinuation of therapies in 2013.

We hope the spectrum of results and ideas will be informative to the rheumatology community and may provide synergy for further development of electronic data and interfaces for better care and outcomes for patients with rheumatic diseases. The editors and authors welcome any critique and comments to try to improve rheumatology care. better care and outcomes for patients with rheumatic diseases.