

RA Statistics: Quick Facts

An estimated 5 million people suffer from RA in the seven major markets;¹ RA affects more than 2.9 million Europeans¹⁶, with 0.8 percent of the U.K. adult population affected¹⁸

People with RA are twice as likely to suffer from depression as members of the general population⁶

► Fact sheet

Quick facts about rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

It is estimated that five million people suffer from RA in the seven major markets.¹ Although RA can affect people of all ages, the onset of the disease usually occurs between 30 and 50 years of age.² People living with RA are at a higher risk of developing other conditions, including heart disease, stroke and depression.³

- Prevalence is not split evenly between genders, since women are three times more likely to be affected than men⁴
- RA is more prevalent among women and in developed countries⁵

Social and emotional impact

- People with RA are twice as likely to suffer from depression as members of the general population⁶
- The prevalence of depression in RA patients is estimated to range between 14% to 46% of the population of people living with the disease⁷
- More than half of people with RA found that their condition placed limitations on intimate relations due largely to fatigue and pain associated with their condition⁸

Productivity

- RA can lead to disability, and for some patients this happens at a young age.^{2,9} In early studies, 10% of RA patients were confined to a wheelchair or bedridden 10-15 years after the onset of the disease¹⁰
- RA patients who are working can often become disabled in the years following their disease diagnosis.¹¹ Twenty years following diagnosis, 80% of working people with RA had become disabled¹⁰
- RA patients often need assistance around the house. A study found that half of people with RA needed household help from relatives, friends, formal home assistance, or private household assistance¹²

Financial implications

- Indirect costs make up a major portion of RA costs and spending. Analyses of RA-related costs have shown that indirect costs (due to loss of productivity) account for 50%-85% of the overall cost of the disease, the main indirect costs being work disability and sick leave¹³
- Based on the annual cost per patient, the total national cost of RA is estimated at €45.3 billion in Europe¹⁴

Disease and Outcomes

Due to the chronic nature of RA, the long term implications of the disease touch nearly every aspect of life.

- One in five General Practitioner visits involves the symptoms of arthritis, such as joint pain, stiffness, fatigue and impaired mobility¹⁵
- Recent studies have demonstrated an increased mortality in rheumatoid patients
- Median life expectancy was shortened an average of seven years for men and three years for women compared to control populations¹⁶
- People with RA, particularly those whose disease is not well controlled, may have a higher risk for heart disease and stroke¹⁷
- Disability is higher among patients with rheumatoid arthritis with 60% being unable to work 10 years after the onset of their disease¹⁸

For more information visit www.ucb.com

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