



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence and Incidence

- Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) affects between 0.5 to 1 per cent of the adult population worldwide.
- In China, Japan and Taiwan RA affects 0.3 per cent of the population in each country—or 4 million, 380,000 and 69,000 people respectively.^{1,2,3}
- In Malaysia, RA affects about 0.5 per cent of adults between the ages of 25 and 50.⁴
- Two to three times as many women as men suffer from the disease.
- RA can start at any age, but the peak age of onset is between 30 and 55 years.

Burden of Disease on Patients

- Treating only the symptoms of RA can reduce a person's lifespan by about 10 years.⁵
- Work disability among people with RA is significantly higher than in the general population.
- Research has shown that two-thirds of people with RA lose an average of 39 working days each year.⁶
- Another study demonstrated that nearly a quarter of patients with RA experience a reduction in income.⁷

Economic Burden of RA

- In the United States, a systematic review revealed that the average annual medical cost associated with RA is US\$5,720 per patient of which in-patient cost is the largest component.⁸
- In Korea, the economic burden of RA is estimated to be US\$624.9 million, equivalent to 0.11 per cent of the GNP.⁹
- In Australia, arthritis costs A\$24 billion each year in healthcare, lost time at work, shortened lives and years spent with disability.¹⁰
- In Thailand, the average societal cost of RA is estimated to be US\$2,682, 41.4 per cent of a patient's average annual income. Average direct and indirect costs were estimated to be US\$2,135 and US\$547 per patient per year, respectively.¹¹



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