

中文題目：類風濕性關節炎病患就醫行為調查－以某區域醫院為例

英文題目：The Healthcare Utilization Behavior of Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients in a Regional Teaching Hospital

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Background: The purpose of this study is to investigate and understand the healthcare utilization behavior of rheumatoid arthritis patients. A questionnaire was designed to examine delay diagnosis, compliance and self-perceived illness severity of patients to help patients assessing the early diagnosis and early treatment.

Methods: Data was collected in a health education lecture for rheumatoid arthritis. 150 questionnaires were distributed and a total of 127 valid questionnaires returned, a valid response rate was 84.7%. Data was processed and analyzed by statistical software SPSS for Windows 14.

Results: A total of 127 persons (female 103) were enrolled in this study. The average delay in presentation to primary physician was 19.48 weeks in male and 27.11 weeks in female. The average weeks from the initial assessment in primary care to definite diagnosis was 49.1 weeks, 54.1 weeks in male and 47.8 weeks in female. The age, presentation to primary physician, the initial assessment to definite diagnosis was higher in high self-perceived disease severity than that of medium and minimal. Compliance decreased with increasing education level and usage of alternative medicines and in male respondents.

Conclusions: Our study indicates quite long lag times between disease onset to primary physician and the initial assessment to definite diagnosis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. More efforts should be done to improve the health education, in order to hasten the diagnosis and improve the treatment.