

# Laboral impact in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) treated with advanced therapies at 12 months of treatment.

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## INTRODUCTION

- Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic, inflammatory systemic disease.

## OBJECTIVE

The aim of this analysis is to evaluate labor impact on moderate-severe RA patients at 12 months of starting an advanced therapy (bDMARD or tsDMARD) in Spain.

## METHODS

- An observational, prospective, multicenter study was designed.
- RA patients who had failed to conventional-synthetic Disease Modifying AntiRheumatic Drugs (conventional-synthetic DMARD) or first biologic-DMARD and starting biologic-DMARD or targeted-synthetic-DMARD were included.
- Work data (baseline and month 12) were collected through:
  - WPAI (Work Productivity and Activity Impairment) questionnaire,
  - A structured questionnaire designed in collaboration with two patient associations to include patient´s perspective in working-life (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Questions related with work included in the questionnaire

Labor situation prior to RA diagnosis	Labor situation at basal visit
1. Level of education Basic High school Vocational training Graduate Bachelor's degree or higher	1. Current occupation, after the diagnosis of RA Full-Time Work Part-Time Work Housekeeping Retired Unemployed
2. Occupation before RA diagnosis: Full-time job Part-time work Housekeeping Retired Unemployed	2. Professional sector/Current professional level, after the diagnosis of RA: Services (administrative, catering, hospitality, ...) Drivers, workers (construction, agriculture, fishing), customer service Skilled Machine Operators, Skilled Manufacturing, Skilled Clerk, Skilled Construction Workers, Safety & Security Services Qualified professionals and technicians Directors, managers Other ND
3. In which professional sector/professional level did you work before the diagnosis of RA: Services (administrative, catering, hospitality, ...) Drivers, workers (construction, agriculture, fishing), customer service Skilled Machine Operators, Skilled Manufacturing, Skilled Clerk, Skilled Construction Workers, Safety & Security Services Qualified professionals and technicians Directors, managers Other ND	4. You have a recognized disability No Yes If so, which one? Temporary disability Partial disability (and in this case the percentage must be provided) 33% Disability 45% Disability 65% Disability Permanent total disability (for your regular job) Absolute permanent disability (any job) Severe disability
	5. Have some kind of dependency help No Yes Public Funding: how many hours are you granted per week? Private Financing (insurer,...) how many hours a week? _____
	3. In relation to your work activity, has it changed after the diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis? No, I'm still in the same job, but I feel that the illness has limited my professional development. Yes, I was fired. Yes, I changed jobs of my own accord due to the difficulties caused by the disease. Yes, I changed jobs of my own accord out of fear of the future Yes, I changed for other reasons

Table 1. Patients Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics (N=118)

Age, years (N=118): Mean (SD)	54.92 (11.45)
Gender, women (N=118): n (%)	92 (78)
Residence (N = 101) Rural, n (%) Urban, n (%)	25 (24.8) 76 (75.2)
Educational level (N = 101) Basic, n (%) High school, n (%) Vocational training, n (%) Graduate, n (%) Bachelor's degree or higher, n (%)	41 (40.6) 16 (15.8) 23 (22.8) 6 (5.9) 15 (14.9)
Symptoms onset age, years: Mean (SD)	45.22 (12.72)
Time between symptoms onset & diagnosis, months Mean (SD)	14.12 (21.03)
Time between symptoms onset & treatment, months Mean (SD)	12.73 (19.02)
RA Extraarticular affectation (N=118): n (%)	14 (11.9)
Erosions (N=118): n (%)	40 (33.9)
Rheumatoid Factor (N=118): n (%)	88 (74.6)
ACPA (N=118): n (%)	86 (72.9)
DAS-28 (ESR) at basal visit (N=118): Mean (SD)	4.8 (1.10)

## DISCLOSURE

This study was sponsored by Pfizer S.L.U. MM, MV and AL are employees of Pfizer S.L.U.



## RESULTS

- 12 months after start advanced therapy, 118 patients had answered about the labor aspects. Patients' characteristics are described in table 1.
- The labor aspects most impacted by RA were employment status and the impact of RA on their working life (RA-WI) (Table 2 and table 3). Work activity status before and after RA diagnosis were reported (Table 3). Patients in RA remission report less RA-WI than patients without remission [Non-RA-WI 93.1%) vs (Non-RA-WI 59.3%) (p=0.013)]. In educational level, sector or professional level work significant changes were not reported.
- At workplace, at M12, 21.9% of patients did not feel that their RA was understood, 18.8% of patients in LDA/remission and 31.2% of moderate/high activity (p=0.066). RA was unknown at workplace in 12.5%.

Table 2. Work activity status at M0 and M12 (N=118)

	M0	M12
RA has not impact (%)	47.2	76.8
Still in the same job, feeling RA limited their professional development (%)	30.3	17.9
Fired because RA (%)	2.2	0
Decided changed the job due to RA difficulties (%)	4.5	1.8
Changed due to future concerns (%)	1.1	0
Changed for other reasons (%)	14.6	3.6

Table 3. Work status before and after RA diagnosis (N=118)

	Before RA diagnostic	Work status	
		After RA diagnostic*	
		M0	M12
Job	85.1 %	76.2%	72.3 %
Full-time job	68.3 %	59.4 %	61.4 %
Half time job	16.8 %	16.8 %	10.9 %
Unemployment	1 %	4 %	5.9 %
Housekeepers	6.9 %	5.9 %	5 %
Retired	6.9 %	13.9 %	16.8 %

- Disability degree because RA was recognized in 18.6% of patients. Although 11.9% needed help to apply for dependency/disability and 10.9% answer that needed a caregiver for daily activities, no patient referred receive public economic support for it.
- There was an improvement in work productivity between baseline and month 12 in all components assessed with the WPAI, being significant for presenteeism and general activity (Table 4).
- Labor productivity losses costs (€, year 2022; SD) were calculated for 6 months before start advanced treatment and for the period between month 6 and month 12 (Table 4).

	Labor productivity		
	M0	M12	
WPAI (mean, SE)			
absenteeism	6.46 (2.08)	4.75(1.99)	p=0.052
presenteeism	24.46 (3.03)	13.27(2.39)	p<0.001
productivity	28.58 (3.39)	17.56(2.96)	p=0.002
general activity	43.47 (2.95)	29.88(2.84)	p<0.001
Labor productivity losses costs			
€, year-2022/patient (SE; CI95%)	2,876.00€ (403; 2,075 - 3,673)	2,156.00€ (423; 1,317 - 2,995)	p=0.394
Minimum-Maximum	0 - 18,013		

- At month 12, WPAI showed a difference [mean (SE)] between patients in LDA/remission vs moderate/high activity in presentism [20.7 (3.23) vs 33.33 (6.53); p=0.90], productivity [24.51 (3.73) vs 38.21 (7.03); p=0.92], and general activity [39.44 (3.49) vs 53.00 (5.19); p=0.35)].

## CONCLUSIONS

RA diagnosis has an impact on the professional lives of patients in Spain. Achieving remission or low disease activity may improve work productivity. More and longer studies are needed to establish the real impact on the work aspect in patients with RA.