The Introduction

The macroeconomically relevant outcome (MRO) is illness-related work productivity loss. The overall work productivity loss measured in employed patients can be calculated by adding indirect costs (namely costs of absenteeism and presenteeism) to direct costs. The indirect costs are calculated on the basis of GDP per worker per hour. The objective of this study was to demonstrate the total indirect costs of RA, CD and Ps in an employed population in Poland and to show how differently the total indirect costs (costs of absenteeism and presenteeism) can be generated by each disease.

The Methods

Data on presenteeism and absenteeism related with diagnosed diseases were collected in a cross-sectional study from patients with active RA, CD and Ps (with available results). Patients with moderate or high disease activity were included in the analysis. The work productivity and activity impairment (WPAI) questionnaire measures were administered in a cross-sectional study of patients with RA, CD and Ps. Work productivity and activity impairment (WPAI) questionnaire and patient disease activity were assessed.

Conclusion

The highest annual indirect costs per working person associated with both absenteeism and overall work impairment are generated by patients with RA. The lowest annual indirect costs per working person associated with absenteeism are generated by patients with Ps.

The limitations of this study include the following:

1. Only patients undergoing active medical treatment were included in the study. Therefore, the results may not be applicable to patients who are not receiving medical treatment.
2. The study was conducted in a single center, which may limit the generalizability of the results.
3. The study only included patients from one country (Poland), which may limit the generalizability of the results to other populations.

The limitations of this study have been considered and are described in the Discussion section of the paper. The limitations of this study do not affect the validity of the results, but they should be taken into account when interpreting the findings.