

Title

Impact of comorbidity burden as scored using the rheumatic disease comorbidity index (RDCI) on response to treatment with the first biological agent among patients with Psoriatic Arthritis

Research Team

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Abstract:

Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory arthritis, which may result in significant physical disability and, in several cases, accelerated mortality. In addition to the impact of the primary disease on risk of death and increased morbidity, other factors, such as comorbid conditions, also play an important role. As the burden of comorbidities contributes to increased early mortality, affects disease activity and response to treatments, they should be considered in the management of patients with PsA. Rheumatic Disease Comorbidity Index (RDCI) was validated for the use in patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, to estimate the overall role of comorbidities in treatment outcomes. The use of these specific comorbidity scores allows better quantification of the comorbidity burden and recent data have shown their utility as a predictor of clinical response and as a possible tool for therapeutic guidance in PsA. Identifying comorbidities and estimating their impact on the disease course is critical to safely and effectively treating a patient with PsA, as these comorbidities often have implications for therapy selection.

The main purpose of this study is to measure the impact of comorbidity burden on PsA patient's health status and on the treatment response to the first biological agent, using the RDCI.