

63 percent of RA patients suffer psychiatric disorders, with depressive spectrum conditions most likely

June 12 2009

Over half (63%) of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) also suffer from psychiatric disorders, with the majority of these (87%) occurring in the depressive spectrum, according to the results of a new study. Interestingly, over half (52%) of the patients studied indicated that they had experienced stress events before the onset of their RA.

The study also revealed a number of other interesting findings about the emotional burden of RA:

- Cognitive dysfunction was diagnosed in 23% of patients, with 16% of this attributed to depression
- A third (33%) suffered from sleep disorders
- Those with depression also exhibited more severe RA (measured by X-ray), greater functional insufficiency and pain, as well as having received less aggressive treatment than patients without depression. (No significant differences in age, duration of illness, gender or DAS28* scores were noted between the two groups)
- Significantly, cognitive impairments were found more often ($p=0.02$) in patients older than 50 years (39% vs. 9%)

- The age of the first prednisone intake was significantly higher (p

Citation: 63 percent of RA patients suffer psychiatric disorders, with depressive spectrum conditions most likely (2009, June 12) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2009-06-percent-ra-patients-psychiatric-disorders.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.