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Verlauf der Juvenilen Idiopathischen Arthritis im Erwachsenenalter

Outcome of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis in Adults

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Zusammenfassung

Hintergrund: Ein großer Teil der JIA-Patienten leidet im Verlauf des Lebens unter chronischen oder wiederkehrenden Schmerzen und muss aufgrund der Erkrankung mit Einschränkungen im Alltag leben. Das Outcome der JIA konnte im Laufe der letzten zwei Jahrzehnte durch neue Therapien erheblich verbessert werden. Der größte Fortschritt wurde durch die Einführung von Biologika erreicht, die allerdings im Verdacht stehen das Risiko für das Auftreten von Malignomen zu erhöhen.

Zielsetzung: Das Ziel dieser Arbeit war es, das Outcome von JIA-Patienten im Hinblick auf die Lebensqualität und die Inzidenz von Malignomen zu untersuchen.

Methoden: Patienten, die zwischen 1952 und 2010 im Deutschen Zentrum für Kinder- und Jugendrheumatologie (DZKJR) wegen einer rheumatischen Erkrankung in Behandlung waren (N=10.580), erhielten Anfang 2012 einen Fragebogen per Post. Erfragt wurden soziodemografische Faktoren, Details zur Rheumaerkrankung, zur Lebensqualität (EQ5D-Fragebogen) und bisherigen Krebsdiagnosen. Für alle Studienteilnehmer wurden die Eigenangaben zur JIA Diagnose mit Hilfe der Krankenakten überprüft und nur solche Patienten eingeschlossen, deren Diagnose durch die Akte bestätigt werden konnte. Von diesen wurden diejenigen, die über eine bösartige Krebsdiagnose berichteten, als Fall definiert und mit bis zu vier Kontrollen aus der gleichen Kohorte nach Geschlecht, Alter (+/- 2 Jahre) und dem Datum der ersten Aufnahme im DZKJR (+/- 2 Jahre) gematcht. Im Frühjahr 2013 erhielten alle Fälle und Kontrollen einen zweiten Fragebogen, mit dem sie zur Therapie seit JIA-Diagnosestellung befragt wurden (genestete Fall-Kontroll-Studie). Neben deskriptiver Statistik wurden multivariate logistische Regressionsmodelle erstellt. Um die Krebsinzidenz in Relation zur Allgemeinbevölkerung zu betrachten, wurden standardisierte Inzidenzraten (SIR) und die dazugehörigen 95%-Konfidenzintervalle (95%-KI) berechnet.

Ergebnisse: Insgesamt beantworteten 6127 Patienten den ersten Fragebogen (Response 66%), 3698 von ihnen hatten eine JIA. Die JIA-Patienten waren zwischen 3 und 73 Jahre alt, 64% waren weiblich. Ihre Lebensqualität war im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung in allen Bereichen statistisch signifikant eingeschränkt, vor allem im Bereich Schmerzen. Das weibliche Geschlecht, höheres Alter, niedrigere Bildung, sich aktuell in rheumatischer Behandlung zu befinden und das Vorliegen einer Behinderung waren mit niedrigerer Lebensqualität assoziiert. Bei 48 Patienten wurde ein Malignom diagnostiziert, 35 davon traten bei Frauen auf. Die häufigsten Krebsarten waren Melanom (n=11), Zervixkarzinom (n=8) und Mammakarzinom (n=7). Insgesamt war die Inzidenz von Krebs im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung nicht erhöht (SIR 0,99 (95%-KI: 0,69; 1,29)), bei weiblichen JIA-Patienten wurde häufiger ein Melanom beobachtet als bei Frauen aus der Allgemeinbevölkerung (SIR: 3.21 (95%-KI: 1.60; 5.73)). In die genestete Fall-Kontroll-Studie wurden 37 Fälle und 125 Kontrollen eingeschlossen (Response 92%). Es wurden keine statistisch signifikanten Unterschiede zwischen Tumorpatienten und Kontrollen hinsichtlich ihrer Medikamenteneinnahme gefunden.

Schlussfolgerung: Im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung waren die JIA-Patienten in ihrer Lebensqualität benachteiligt, ihr Risiko an einem Malignom zu erkranken war unabhängig von der Medikamenteneinnahme nicht erhöht. Lediglich bei den Frauen fand sich ein leicht erhöhtes Risiko für das Auftreten eines Melanoms.

Abstract

Background: A substantially proportion of all JIA patients suffer from chronic or recurrent pain and have to live with limitations in daily life. Outcome of JIA has been considerably improved by new forms of therapy over the past two decades. The greatest progress has been achieved by the introduction of biologicals, which, however, are suspected to increase the risk of the occurrence of malignancies.

Aim: The objective of this research was to investigate the outcome of JIA patients with regard to the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and the incidence of malignancy.

Methods: Patients who were under medical treatment in the German Centre for Pediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology (GCPAR) (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany) between 1952 and 2010 received a self-administered standardized questionnaire by mail at the beginning of 2012 (n=10,580). The questionnaire included sociodemographic factors, details of the rheumatic disease, questions about their HRQOL (EQ5D questionnaire) and previous cancer diagnoses. For all study participants the self-reported JIA diagnosis was verified by means of the medical records and only those patients whose diagnosis was confirmed with the medical documents were included. Among these, the ones that reported a malignant tumor were defined as cases and were individually matched by sex, age (+/- 2 years) and date of first admission to the hospital (+/- 2 years) with up to four controls each. In the spring of 2013, all cases and controls received a second self-administered standardized questionnaire to raise drug intake (nested case-control-study). In addition to descriptive statistics, multivariate logistic regression models were calculated. To compare cancer incidence in the JIA cohort with the German general population, standardized incidence ratios (SIRs) and their corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95%-CIs) were calculated.

Results: Overall, 6127 patients responded to the first questionnaire (response 66%), 3698 of them had a JIA. Age of study participants ranged from 3 to 73 years, 64% were female. HRQOL of JIA patients was significantly lower in all domains compared to the general population, especially in the area of pain. Female sex, older age, lower education, currently being in rheumatic treatment and the existence of a disability were associated with lower HRQOL. A malignancy was diagnosed in 48 patients, 35 of them occurred in women (74%). The most frequently observed type of cancer were melanoma (n=11), cervical cancer (n=8) and breast cancer (n=7). Compared with the general population the overall incidence of cancer was not increased (SIR: 0.99 (95% CI: 0.69; 1.29)); in female JIA patients melanoma was more frequently observed than in women from the general population (SIR: 3.21 (95% CI: 1.60; 5.73)). In the nested case-control study 37 cases and 125 controls were included (response 92%). There were no significant differences between cases and controls regarding their medication.

Conclusion: Compared to the general population JIA patients were disadvantaged in their HRQOL; their risk of malignancy was not increased regardless of their medication. But for woman a slightly increased risk for melanoma was found.

Hintergrund und Zielsetzung

Die juvenile idiopathische Arthritis (JIA) ist eine multifaktorielle Autoimmunerkrankung, deren Ursachen bis heute noch weitgehend unbekannt sind [1]. Sie ist die häufigste, chronisch-entzündliche Erkrankung des rheumatischen Formenkreises im Kindes- und Jugendalter [1-5]. Sie ist definiert als eine Arthritis, die vor dem 16. Lebensjahr beginnt, deren Symptome mindestens sechs Wochen andauern und für die keine anderen Ursachen bekannt sind [2]. In Deutschland werden ungefähr 7 von 100.000 Kindern jährlich neu diagnostiziert [6].

Das langfristige Outcome der JIA variiert, jedoch hat ein großer Teil der JIA-Patienten¹ anhaltende Beschwerden im Erwachsenenalter. Sie leiden unter chronischen oder wiederkehrenden Schmerzen und müssen mit Einschränkungen im Alltag leben [7-13]. Über die gesundheitsbezogene Lebensqualität (*engl. health-related quality of life, HRQOL*) im Langzeitverlauf ist bisher wenig bekannt, die aktuell verfügbaren Daten stammen aus relativ kleinen Studien [14]. Das Outcome der JIA konnte im Laufe der letzten zwei Jahrzehnte durch neue Therapieformen erheblich verbessert werden [15-18]. Der größte Fortschritt wurde durch die Einführung von Biologika, zu denen die Tumor-Nekrose-Faktor α Hemmer (TNF α) gehören, erreicht [15, 19]. Allerdings stehen die Biologika im Verdacht, zusätzlich zu einem womöglich generell höherem Krebsrisiko bei JIA-Patienten [20-24], das Auftreten von Malignomen zu begünstigen [25-27]. Als Reaktion auf eine Warnung der Lebensmittelüberwachungs- und Arzneimittelzulassungsbehörde der Vereinigten Staaten (*engl. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*) über einen möglichen Zusammenhang zwischen der Einnahme von Biologika und dem Auftreten von Malignomen wurden einige Studien durchgeführt, die diesen Verdacht allerdings nicht bestätigen konnten [26, 28-35]. Ein im Jahr 2013 veröffentlichter Review fasste zusammen, dass eine Assoziation zwischen der Biologikatherapie und dem Auftreten von Malignomen nach bisherigen Erkenntnissen zwar unwahrscheinlich sei, dass Gewissheit aber nur durch weitere und vor allem größere Studien mit einer längeren Beobachtungszeit erreicht werden könne [25].

Zielsetzung

Das Ziel der vorliegenden Dissertation war es, das Outcome von JIA-Patienten zu untersuchen. In diesem Zusammenhang wurde die HRQOL erwachsener Rheumapatienten verschiedener Altersgruppen in Relation zur Allgemeinbevölkerung untersucht. Weiterhin wurde die Inzidenz von Malignomen bei den JIA-Patienten im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung überprüft und analysiert, ob sich die Behandlung von JIA-Patienten mit Krebs von denen ohne Krebs unterschied.

Methoden

Studiendesign und Studienpopulation

Die SEPIA-Studie (Garmisch Partenkirchner Fall-Kontroll-Studie zu malignen Erkrankungen bei Patienten mit juveniler idiopathischer Arthritis) war eine zweiphasige Studie, Phase A wurde als retrospektive monozentrische Kohortenstudie angelegt. Alle Patienten, die zwischen 1952 und 2010 im Deutschen Zentrum für Kinder- und Jugendrheumatologie (DZKJR) wegen einer rheumatischen Erkrankung behandelt wurden, erhielten im Januar 2012 einen standardisierten Fragebogen und eine Einverständniserklärung per Post

¹ Aus Gründen der besseren Lesbarkeit wird in der vorliegenden Arbeit auf die gleichzeitige Verwendung männlicher und weiblicher Sprachformen verzichtet. Sämtliche personenbezogenen Bezeichnungen sind geschlechtsneutral zu verstehen.

(N=10.580) (vgl. Anhang 1 und 2). Alle Patienten, die in Phase A über einen malignen Tumor berichteten (Fall) (n=48), wurden mit bis zu vier Kontrollen nach Geschlecht, Alter (+/- 2 Jahre) und Datum der ersten Aufnahme im DZKJR (+/- 2 Jahre) aus derselben Kohorte gematcht (n=135) (Phase B). Im Frühjahr 2013 wurde allen Fällen und Kontrollen ein zweiter Fragebogen per Post zugeschickt (vgl. Anhang 3). Die Studie wurde von der Ethikkommission des Klinikums der Universität München (LMU) im September 2011 genehmigt.

Datenerhebung

Die Datenerhebung erfolgte über insgesamt zwei standardisierte, selbstauszufüllende Fragebögen. Der erste Fragebogen (Phase A Studie) beinhaltete validierte Fragen zur Soziodemografie [36, 37] und zur HRQOL [38-40], weiterhin wurden Details zur rheumatischen Erkrankung (z.B. aktuell in Behandlung / Medikamenteneinnahme) sowie zu bisherigen Krebsdiagnosen erfragt (vgl. Anhang 2). Der zweite Fragebogen (Phase B Studie) erfasste die Einnahme verschiedener Medikamente folgender Wirkstoffgruppen zur Behandlung der Rheumaerkrankung: Biologika, krankheitsmodifizierende Antirheumatika, Immunsuppressiva, Glukokortikoide und Zytostatika (vgl. Anhang 3). Zusätzlich zu den Fragebogendaten wurden das Datum der ersten Aufnahme im DZKJR und das Datum der ersten Symptome der JIA aus den Patientenakten des DZKJR erhoben.

Definition der JIA

Die Eigenangaben der Patienten zu ihrer JIA Diagnose wurden durch die Autorin dieser Arbeit mit Unterstützung durch die Fachärzte des DZKJR mittels Patientenakten validiert. Da die Definition des kindlichen Rheumas seit 1952 mehrfach geändert wurde, mussten die Diagnosen aller Patienten, die vor 1997 behandelt wurden, anhand der aktuellen Kriterien der Internationalen Liga gegen Rheumatismus (ILAR) nachdiagnostiziert werden [2, 41, 42]. Bis 1977 wurde vorwiegend die Bezeichnung juvenile rheumatoide Arthritis (JRA) verwendet, von 1978 bis 1997 der Begriff juvenile chronische Arthritis (JCA), 1997 löste der international einheitliche Begriff JIA die früheren Bezeichnungen ab [42]. Patienten mit einer der folgenden Diagnosen in ihrer Akte wurden als JIA-Patienten definiert: JRA, JCA, JIA, Spondylarthritis, Psoriasis Arthritis, Rheumatoide Arthritis (RA) oder Morbus Still. Weiterhin mussten folgende Kriterien erfüllt sein: Krankheitsbeginn vor dem 16. Lebensjahr, Symptome für mindestens sechs Wochen und keine andere Krankheitsursache bekannt.

Zielgrößen

Die Zielgrößen der Untersuchung waren die HRQOL im Erwachsenenalter sowie das Auftreten maligner Krebserkrankungen. Die HRQOL wurde anhand von fünf Fragen des validierten EQ5D-3L Fragebogens gemessen (Schmerzen, Angst/Depression, Einschränkungen bei allgemeinen Tätigkeiten, für sich selbst sorgen und Mobilität). Für einige Analysen wurden die Antworten mittels standardisierter Berechnungsvorgaben in den sogenannten EQ5D-Index umgerechnet [43]. Die Werte des Indexes liegen zwischen -1 (niedrige HRQOL) und 1 (hohe HRQOL). Die niedrigsten 10% aller EQ5D-Index Werte wurden als Grenzwert für niedrige HRQOL festgelegt. Zusätzlich sollten die Patienten ihren aktuellen Gesundheitszustand auf der visuellen Analogskala (EQ-VAS), einer Skala zwischen 0 (schlecht denkbarster Gesundheitszustand) und 100 (bestmöglicher Gesundheitszustand), bewerten.

Statistische Methoden

In die Auswertungen wurden nur die Daten von JIA-Patienten einbezogen, in die Analysen zur HRQOL zudem nur solche von volljährigen Patienten (≥ 18 Jahre), die den Fragebogen selbst ausgefüllt hatten, da der verwendete Fragebogen nur für diese Zielgruppe validiert war. Neben deskriptiver Statistik (absolute und relative Häufigkeiten, Lage- und Streumaße) und stratifizierten Analysen wurden multivariate logistische Regressionsmodelle erstellt. Um Determinanten einer niedrigen HRQOL zu identifizieren, wurden binäre logistische Regressionsmodelle gerechnet, alle soziodemografischen und krankheitsbezogenen Variablen, die signifikant mit dem Outcome (EQ5D-Index) assoziiert waren ($p_{\text{Chi}^2} < 0,10$), wurden gemeinsam in ein Modell eingeschlossen.

Um die HRQOL der JIA-Patienten mit der Allgemeinbevölkerung zu vergleichen, wurden alters- und geschlechtsstandardisierte Prävalenzen mit Referenzdaten aus der deutschen Allgemeinbevölkerung berechnet [44].

Um die Krebsinzidenz der JIA-Patienten in Relation zur Allgemeinbevölkerung zu betrachten, wurden standardisierte Inzidenzraten (SIRs) mit altersgruppen- und kalenderjahrspezifische Inzidenzraten des saarländischen Krebsregisters als Referenz erstellt. Die Personenjahre wurden für jeden Patienten vom Datum der ersten Aufnahme ins DZKJR bis zur Krebsdiagnose bzw. bis zum Ende der Studienlaufzeit (2012) berechnet. Um Unterschiede zwischen Krebspatienten und ihren Kontrollen in der gematchten Fall-Kontroll-Studie zu untersuchen, wurden konditionale logistische Regressionsmodelle erstellt.

Die statistischen Analysen wurden mit der stata-Software (StataCorp LP, USA, Version 12.1), mit EPICURE (Preston DL 1998) und Microsoft Excel durchgeführt.

Ergebnisse

Studienpopulation

Insgesamt gaben 6127 Patienten ihr schriftliches Einverständnis zur Teilnahme an der Studie und füllten den Phase A Fragebogen aus (Response 66%). Von diesen wurden 3698 als JIA-Patienten nach den oben genannten Kriterien definiert und waren für die Studienteilnahme geeignet (60% der 6127 Teilnehmer). Die Teilnehmer der Studienphase A waren zwischen 3 und 73 Jahre alt (Median: 23 Jahre), 64% waren weiblich und etwa die Hälfte besaß eine hohe Schulbildung. Nach eigenen Angaben befanden sich 58% zum Zeitpunkt der Befragung wegen ihrer JIA in Behandlung, 55% berichteten, aktuell Medikamente zur Behandlung der JIA einzunehmen. Eine ausgewiesene Behinderung gaben 32% an, 27% eine schwere Behinderung (Grad der Behinderung (GdB) ≥ 50).

Die Studienpopulation der genesteten Fall-Kontroll-Studie setzte sich aus 37 Fällen und 125 Kontrollen zusammen (Response 92%) (Abbildung 1). Die Patienten waren zwischen 12 und 67 Jahre alt (Median: 43 Jahre), 82% waren weiblich, die meisten Teilnehmer hatten eine mittlere (41%) oder hohe Schulbildung (38%).

Gesundheitsbezogene Lebensqualität

In die Auswertungen zur HRQOL konnten die Daten von 2592 JIA-Patienten eingeschlossen werden. Diese Patienten waren zwischen 18 und 73 Jahre alt (Median: 30 Jahre), 62% waren weiblich und 50% hatten eine hohe Bildung, damit unterschied sich dieses Kollektiv hinsichtlich soziodemografischer Faktoren nicht wesentlich von der Gesamtstudienpopulation. Die für Alter und Geschlecht der Allgemeinbevölkerung standardisierten Prävalenzen der Probleme der JIA-Patienten waren am höchsten im Bereich Schmerzen, hier berichteten 56% über Probleme.

Weniger häufig wurden Probleme im Bereich Angst/Depression (28%), bei allgemeinen Tätigkeiten (26%) und in der Mobilität (25%) angegeben, die meisten der JIA-Patienten konnten für sich selbst sorgen. In allen fünf Dimensionen berichteten die JIA-Patienten häufiger über Probleme als die Allgemeinbevölkerung (Tabelle1).

Abbildung 1: Zusammensetzung der Studienpopulation

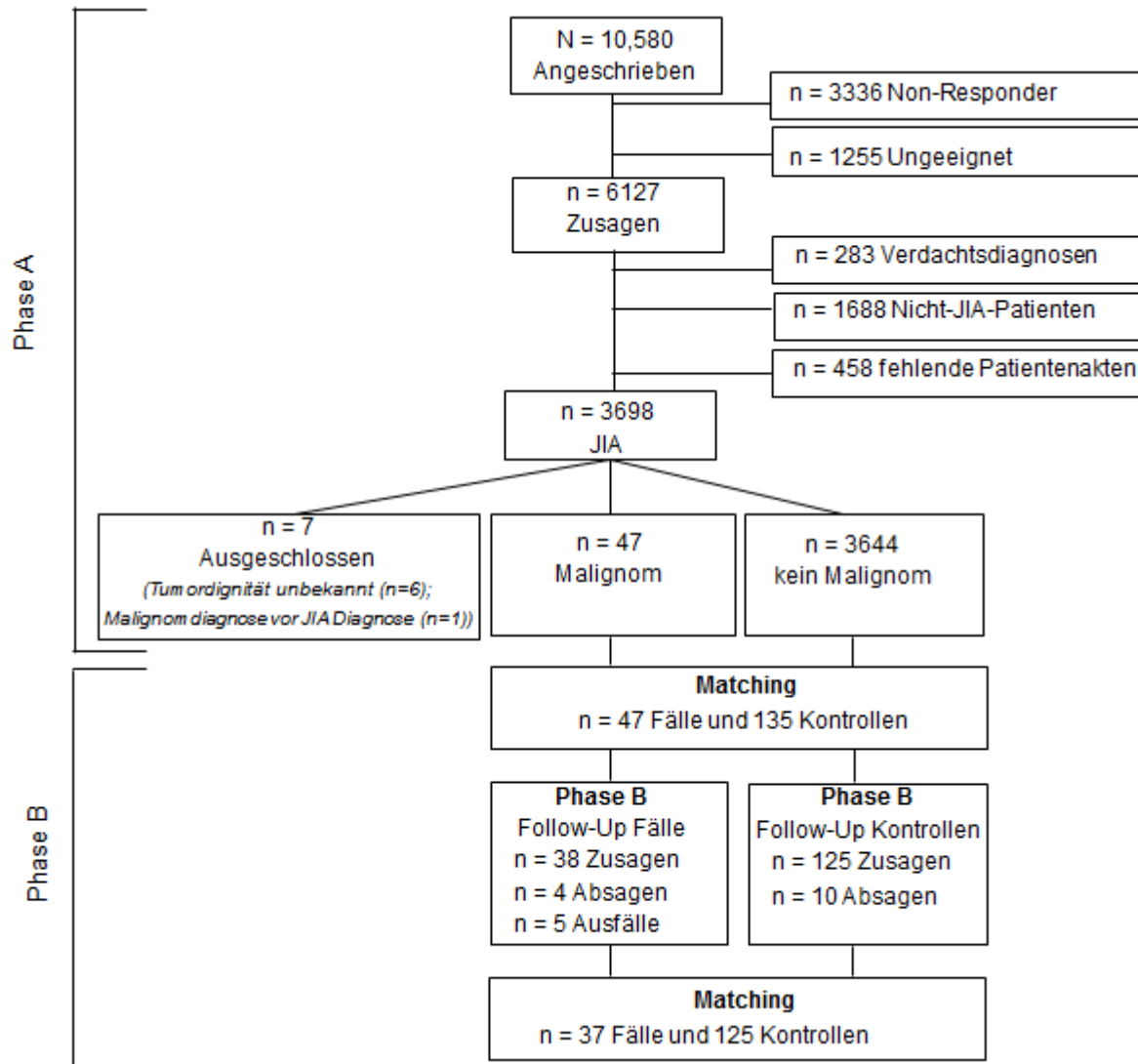


Tabelle 1: Nach Alter und Geschlecht der deutschen Allgemeinbevölkerung standardisierter Anteil der JIA-Patienten mit Problemen in den fünf Dimensionen der Lebensqualität des EQ5D-Fragebogens

	Beweglichkeit/ Mobilität			Für sich selbst sorgen			allgemeine Tätigkeiten			Schmerzen			Angst/ Depression		
	JIA	Ref.	Δ	JIA	Ref.	Δ	JIA	Ref.	Δ	JIA	Ref.	Δ	JIA	Ref.	Δ
Männer	18,7	14,9	3,7	6,7	2,2	4,6	17,6	8,9	8,7	49,2	24,9	24,2	18,3	3,6	14,7
Frauen	30,8	16,8	14,0	14,2	3,4	10,8	32,4	10,7	21,7	62,8	30,0	32,9	36,7	4,9	31,8
Gesamt	25,2	15,9	9,2	10,7	2,8	7,9	25,5	9,9	15,7	56,4	27,6	28,8	36,7	4,9	23,8

JIA: juvenile idiopathische Arthritis. Ref.: Referenz (deutsche Allgemeinbevölkerung). Δ: Differenz zwischen der deutschen Allgemeinbevölkerung (Referenz) und den JIA-Patienten.

Der mediane EQ5D-Index war 0,902 (1.-3. Quartil: 0,737-1; Spannweite: 0,036-1), auf der EQ-VAS bewerteten die Patienten ihren aktuellen Gesundheitszustand im Median mit dem Wert 80 (1.-3. Quartil: 70-90; Spannweite 0-100). Ein EQ5D-Index <0,622 entsprach dem unteren Perzentil und damit einer niedrigen HRQOL. Frauen und ältere Patienten berichteten häufiger über eine niedrige HRQOL. Weiterhin waren eine niedrige Bildung, aktuelle Behandlung und

Medikamenteneinnahme und der Besitz eines Behindertenausweises - insbesondere das Vorliegen einer Schwerbehinderung – sowie eine längere Krankheitsdauer statistisch signifikant mit einer niedrigen HRQOL assoziiert (Tabelle 2).

Tabelle 2: Determinanten niedriger Lebensqualität bei Patienten mit JIA

Complete cases n=2456	Niedrige Lebensqualität (EQ5D-Index < 0,622)			
	% (n)	p _{Chi2}	Rohe OR (95%-KI)	Adjustierte OR (95%-KI)
Geschlecht				
Männlich	7,63 (70)	p<0,001	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
Weiblich	14,55 (224)		2,06 (1,55;2,73)	1,74 (1,27;2,38)
Alter				
18-24 Jahre	7,31 (52)	p<0,001	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
25-34 Jahre	11,82 (94)		1,70 (1,19;2,42)	1,63 (1,12;2,37)
35-44 Jahre	11,13 (58)		1,59 (1,07;2,35)	1,43 (0,94;2,18)
45-54 Jahre	20,18 (66)		3,20 (2,17;4,74)	3,38 (2,18;5,25)
55-76 Jahre	23,53 (24)		3,90 (2,28;6,68)	2,72 (1,99;6,93)
Bildung				
Hoch	8,02 (100)	p<0,001	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
Mittel	14,11 (113)		1,88 (1,42;2,51)	1,70 (1,25;2,32)
Niedrig	19,85 (81)		2,84 (2,07;3,90)	2,42 (1,70;3,45)
Aktuell in Rheumabehandlung				
Nein	3,68 (43)	p<0,001	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
Ja	19,58 (81)		6,40 (4,58;8,95)	1,88 (1,14;3,08)
Aktuelle Medikamenteneinnahme				
Nein	3,60 (44)	p<0,001	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
Ja	20,28 (250)		6,81 (4,89;9,49)	2,98 (1,85;4,79)
Behindertenausweis				
Nein	4,80 (75)	p<0,001	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
Ja	24,55 (219)		6,46 (4,89;8,53)	2,79 (2,03;3,82)
Psoriasis				
Nein	11,31 (250)	p=0,002	1,00 (Ref.)	1,00 (Ref.)
Ja	17,96 (44)		1,72 (1,21;2,44)	1,38 (0,93;2,05)

JIA: Juvenile idiopathische Arthritis. OR: Odds Ratio. 95%-KI: 95%-Konfidenzintervall. Ref.: Referenz.

Krebsinzidenz

Eine Tumordiagnose berichteten 68 Patienten, bei 48 von ihnen wurde laut Fragebogenangabe ein bösartiger Tumor diagnostiziert. Sechs Patienten gaben hierzu keine ausreichenden Informationen und mussten daher aus den Analysen zur Krebsinzidenz ausgeschlossen werden. Bei einem Patienten wurde die Krebsdiagnose vor der JIA Diagnose gestellt, weshalb dieser ebenfalls ausgeschlossen wurde. So verblieben 3691 Patienten (47 Fälle und 3644 Kontrollen) in der Studienpopulation (Abbildung 1). Die meisten Malignome fanden sich bei Frauen (74%, n=35), die häufigsten Krebsarten in der Studienpopulation waren Melanom (n=11), Zervixkarzinom (n=8) und Mammakarzinom (n=7). Es wurde eine Beobachtungszeit von 60.075 Personenjahren (zwischen 1939 und 2012) erreicht. Insgesamt war die Krebsinzidenz bei den JIA-Patienten nicht höher als in der Allgemeinbevölkerung (SIR 0,99 (95%-KI: 0,69; 1,29)). Auch die geschlechtsspezifischen SIRs zeigten kein erhöhtes Krebsrisiko für die JIA-Patienten (SIR Frauen: 1,19 (95%-KI: 0,77; 1,60) und SIR Männer: 0,67 (95%-KI: 0,27; 1,07)). Die krebsartspezifische Inzidenz war bei den Frauen für das Melanom statistisch signifikant erhöht (SIR: 3.21 (95%-KI: 1.60; 5.73)), bei den Männern wurde kein Melanom diagnostiziert.

Medikamenteneinnahme und Krebsinzidenz

Etwa die Hälfte (49%) der Befragten berichtete im Laufe der letzten 12 Monate Medikamente zur Behandlung der JIA eingenommen zu haben. Am häufigsten wurden sogenannte *disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs* (DMARD) verabreicht (84%), etwas mehr als die Hälfte der Patienten erhielt Glukokortikoide (66%) und Immunsuppressiva (65%); Biologika (20%) und Zytostatika (6%) wurden weniger häufig eingenommen. Bei der Einnahme von Medikamenten wurden keine Unterschiede zwischen Fällen und Kontrollen festgestellt (Tabelle 3).

Tabelle 3: Konditionale logistische Regression zur Assoziation zwischen Medikamenteneinnahme und Krebs bei Patienten mit JIA

	n _{fehlend} n (%)	Fall n (%)	Kontrolle n (%)	OR (95%-KI) ¹
Gesamt		37 (22.8)	125 (77.2)	
DMARD				
Nein	10 (6.17)	5 (14.3)	20 (17.1)	1.00 (Ref.)
Ja		30 (85.7)	97 (82.9)	1.25 (0.42;3.76)
Immunsuppressiva				
Nein	21 (12.96)	11 (35.5)	39 (35.5)	1.00 (Ref.)
Ja		20 (64.5)	71 (64.6)	0.97 (0.42;2.27)
Zytostatika				
Nein	42 (25.93)	27 (93.1)	86 (94.5)	1.00 (Ref.)
Ja		2 (6.9)	5 (5.5)	1.29 (0.23;7.18)
Glukokortikoide				
Nein	26 (16.05)	7 (21.2)	39 (37.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
Ja		26 (78.8)	64 (62.1)	2.31 (0.88;6.10)
Biologika				
Nein	38 (23.46)	25 (86.2)	74 (77.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
Ja		4 (13.8)	21 (22.1)	0.75 (0.24;2.38)

JIA: Juvenile idiopathische Arthritis. OR: Odds Ratio. 95%-KI: 95%-Konfidenzintervall. DMARD: disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. ¹ OR der konditionalen logistischen Regression mit Krebs (ja/nein) als Outcome. Für jede unabhängige Variable wurde ein separates Modell gerechnet.

Diskussion

Die Ergebnisse unserer Studie zeigen, dass JIA-Patienten auch im Langzeitverlauf im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung in ihrer Lebensqualität eingeschränkt sind. Die Hälfte der untersuchten Patienten befand sich zum Zeitpunkt der Befragung noch wegen der in ihrer Kindheit diagnostizierten JIA in Behandlung. Je schwerer die Erkrankung, desto stärker war die HRQOL eingeschränkt. Für das Auftreten von Malignomen insgesamt wurde kein erhöhtes Risiko bei den JIA-Patienten im Vergleich zur Bevölkerung des Saarlandes gefunden, bei den Frauen unserer Kohorte wurde im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung häufiger ein Melanom diagnostiziert. Die Medikamenteneinnahme unterschied sich nicht zwischen Krebsfällen und Kontrollen.

Gesundheitsbezogene Lebensqualität der JIA-Patienten

Die Ergebnisse unserer Studie zur Lebensqualität stimmen teilweise mit früheren Studien überein. Studien zur HRQOL von Kindern und Jugendlichen mit JIA fanden ebenfalls eine Benachteiligung der Patienten gegenüber der Allgemeinbevölkerung oder gesunden Kontrollen [14, 45, 46]. Zur HRQOL von erwachsenen JIA-Patienten im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung oder gesunden Kontrollen gibt es deutlich weniger Studien, die Ergebnisse sind uneinheitlich [12, 47, 48]. Hinsichtlich der Determinanten von HRQOL zeigen

unsere Ergebnisse eine gute Übereinstimmung mit anderen Studien [47-52]. Unterschiedliche Studienergebnisse könnten durch verschiedene Störgrößen bedingt sein. Mögliche Erklärungen sind variierende Studiendesigns und der Einsatz unterschiedlicher Instrumente zur Messung der HRQOL. Weiterhin unterscheiden sich die Studienkohorten hinsichtlich des Alters der Teilnehmer und folglich hinsichtlich der Krankheitsdauer, beide Faktoren stellen bedeutende Prädiktoren für die HRQOL dar [53]. Schließlich ist zu berücksichtigen, dass sich die Behandlungsstrategien in den verschiedenen Gesundheitssystemen der Länder unterscheiden und im Laufe der Zeit verändern [54]. Vor dem Hintergrund dieser möglichen Störfaktoren sollte ein Vergleich der HRQOL zwischen verschiedenen Studien mit Vorsicht erfolgen.

Zur Messung der HRQOL nutzten wir die Fragen des EQ5D-Fragebogens, der sich durch hohe Reliabilität, Validität und Objektivität (Gütekriterien) auszeichnet [40, 55]. Der Fragebogen wurde sowohl für die deutsche Bevölkerung [56] als auch für RA [57] validiert und eignet sich aufgrund der generischen Eigenschaft für den Vergleich von Patienten und gesunden Personen. Allerdings mussten Patienten unter 18 Jahren und solche, die den Fragebogen nicht selbst ausfüllen konnten, ausgeschlossen werden, da die Fragen für diese Gruppen nicht validiert waren.

Krebsinzidenz

Unser Ergebnis, dass die Krebsinzidenz bei JIA-Patienten insgesamt vergleichbar mit der Allgemeinbevölkerung war, stimmt mit einigen [26, 34, 35], jedoch nicht allen früheren Forschungsergebnissen überein [28, 33]. Einige Studien, die ebenfalls krebsartspezifische Inzidenzen untersuchten, fanden wie wir ein gehäuftes Auftreten des Melanoms bei JIA-Patienten [15, 34, 58, 59]. Dass in unserer Studie die Melanominzidenz nur bei den Frauen erhöht war, könnte durch die junge Studienbevölkerung bedingt sein. In Deutschland ist die Krebsinzidenz in den jüngeren Altersgruppen bei den Frauen höher als bei den Männern [60]. Allerdings sollte der Vergleich der Studien auch in diesem Fall mit Vorsicht erfolgen. Heterogene Studienergebnisse können auf verschiedene Studienzeiträume, unterschiedliche Diagnosen und Krankheitsbilder, verbesserte Krebsdiagnostik und Früherkennung zurückzuführen sein.

Medikamenteneinnahme und Krebsinzidenz

Unsere Analysen zur Medikamenteneinnahme von JIA-Patienten mit Krebs und JIA-Patienten ohne Krebs ergaben keine statistisch signifikanten Unterschiede. Diese Ergebnisse stimmen mit dem aktuellen Forschungsstand weitgehend überein. Zwar gab es aus einigen Studien Hinweise auf eine erhöhte Krebsinzidenz im Zusammenhang mit neuen Therapeutika - vor allem Biologika - [26, 27], aktuellen Reviews zur Folge aber seien Patienten, die einer Biologikatherapie unterzogen wurden, keinem erhöhten Malignomrisiko ausgesetzt [61-65]. Es gibt mittlerweile auch Hinweise darauf, dass die Verwendung von Biologika das Risiko für Malignome verringere, indem die Entzündungsprozesse im Körper abgeschwächt werden [64].

Stärken und Limitationen

Es gelang uns eine JIA-Kohorte von beträchtlicher Größe mit einem langen Follow-Up aufzubauen. Obwohl für viele der ursprünglich kontaktierten Patienten die Behandlung im DZKJR lange zurücklag, war die Response insgesamt gut. Mit den Ergebnissen unserer Studie stellen wir aktuelle Daten zur HRQOL und zur Inzidenz von Krebs im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung zur Verfügung. Besonders im Bereich HRQOL sind regelmäßige Untersuchungen der HRQOL hilfreich um den Erfolg neuer Therapien zu messen [10].

Dennoch muss die Interpretation unserer Studienergebnisse vor dem Hintergrund einiger Limitationen vorgenommen werden, die zu systematischen Verzerrungen der Ergebnisse bzw. zu einer Verringerung ihrer Generalisierbarkeit führen könnten. Durch die Rekrutierung der Studienteilnehmer über eine Rheumaspezialklinik befinden sich in unserer Kohorte möglicherweise besonders schwerere Fälle, was eine Unterschätzung der HRQOL und eine Überschätzung der Krebsinzidenz und damit eine Einschränkung der externen Validität bedeuten könnte. Allerdings wurden in die Analysen zur HRQOL nur die Daten der Patienten einbezogen, die den Fragebogen selbst ausgefüllt haben, wodurch die besonders schweren Fälle möglicherweise gar nicht eingeschlossen wurden. Diese Selektion musste vorgenommen werden, da die verwendete Fragebogenversion nicht für die Proxy Erhebung zugelassen war. Weiterhin handelt es sich bei dem Großteil der Daten um Eigenangaben der Patienten, was die Zuverlässigkeit und Vollständigkeit der Daten einschränken könnte. Allerdings konnten wir mittels Sensitivitätsanalysen und zusätzlicher Datenerhebung aus den Patientenakten die Validität prüfen und bestätigen. Problematisch war die Beantwortung der Fragen zur Medikamenteneinnahme. Da für einen Teil der Patienten die Diagnose und die (erste) Behandlung lange in der Vergangenheit liegt und die Therapie im Laufe der Zeit üblicherweise verändert wird, konnten sie sich möglicherweise nicht an alle Medikamente erinnern, die sie eingenommen haben. Das Vorliegen des sogenannten Erinnerungsbias (*engl. recall bias*) kann daher in diesem Zusammenhang nicht ausgeschlossen werden. Um die Zuverlässigkeit der Angaben zu prüfen, wurden die Fragen zur Medikamenteneinnahme ein Jahr nach der ersten Befragung erneut gestellt. Hierbei war die Übereinstimmung zwischen Erst- und Zweiterhebung gut. Weiterhin wurden die Patienten gefragt, wie gut sie sich an die Einnahme der Medikamente erinnern, fast 50% erinnerten sich gut oder sehr gut, weitere 40% immerhin mäßig gut. Fehlende Unterschiede zwischen Fällen und Kontrollen hinsichtlich ihrer Medikamenteneinnahme in unserer Studie sind aufgrund der niedrigen Fallzahl möglicherweise auf fehlende statistische Power zurückzuführen. Die Durchführung weiterer vor allem größerer Fall-Kontroll-Studien würden in diesem Zusammenhang verlässlichere Schlussfolgerungen ermöglichen.

Zusammenfassung und Schlussfolgerungen

Patienten mit juveniler idiopathischer Arthritis sind bis ins hohe Alter durch ihre Krankheit eingeschränkt; ihre HRQOL ist im Vergleich zur Allgemeinbevölkerung deutlich geringer. Unsere Daten liefern keine Hinweise auf ein insgesamt erhöhtes Tumorrisiko durch die JIA-Erkrankung, für Frauen bestand ein leicht erhöhtes Risiko für das Auftreten eines Melanoms. Da sich die Medikamenteneinnahme von JIA-Patienten mit einer Krebsdiagnose und JIA-Patienten ohne bekannte Krebsdiagnose nicht unterschied, gehen wir davon aus, dass hier kein Zusammenhang besteht. In der Zusammenschau mit der aktuellen Literatur schlussfolgern wir daher, dass die Medikamenteneinnahme - unter anderem die Einnahme von Biologika - nicht mit der Entstehung von Malignomen assoziiert zu sein scheint. Allerdings sind die Ergebnisse größerer prospektiver Kohortenstudien abzuwarten, um die Langzeitwirkungen der Medikamente besser abschätzen zu können.

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Fachartikel

1. Long-Term Health-Related Quality of Life in German Patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis in Comparison to German General Population

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Long-Term Health-Related Quality of Life in German Patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis in Comparison to German General Population

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Abstract

Objective

Aims of the study were to investigate health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in adult patients with former diagnosis of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), to compare their HRQOL with the general population and to identify factors related to a poor outcome.

Methods

In 2012, a cross-sectional survey was performed by mailing a questionnaire to a large cohort of former and current patients of the German Centre for Rheumatology in Children and Adolescents. Only adult patients (≥ 18 years) with a diagnosis compatible with JIA were included ($n = 2592$; response 66%). The questionnaire included information about HRQOL (EQ5D), disease-related questions and socio-demographics. Prevalence and 95% confidence intervals (CI) of problems with mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain and anxiety/depression were standardized to the German general population. Factors associated with low HRQOL in JIA patients were identified using logistic regression models.

Results

Sixty-two percent of the study population was female; age range was 18–73 years. In all dimensions, JIA patients reported statistically significantly more problems than the general population with largest differences in the pain dimension (JIA patients 56%; 95%CI 55–58%; general population 28%; 26–29%) and the anxiety/depression dimension (28%; 27–29% vs. 4%; 4–5%). Lower HRQOL in JIA patients was associated with female sex, older age, lower level of education, still being under rheumatic treatment and disability.

Conclusions

HRQOL in adult JIA patients is considerably lower than in the general population. As this cohort includes historic patients the new therapeutic schemes available today are expected to improve HRQOL in future.

Introduction

Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is the most common chronic, inflammatory, rheumatic disease in childhood and adolescence [1, 2]. It is defined as a form of arthritis with unknown etiology that begins before the age of 16 years and persists at least six weeks [3]. First symptoms may occur as early as 3–6 years of age [4]. The international annual incidence of JIA varies between 0.8 and 22.6 per 100,000 children. The global prevalence is reported between 7 and 401 per 100,000 children [5]. In Germany about 7 of 100,000 children are newly diagnosed each year [6].

Patients with active JIA often live with chronic or recurrent pain and disability [7, 8]. Outcome in adults is variable but a considerably high number of children have ongoing disease in adulthood associated with limitation in everyday life [7–13]. As so far there is no cure of JIA, treatment primarily aims to improve health-related quality of life (HRQOL) by decreasing inflammation, preserving joint function and reducing pain and recurrence [14–17]. HRQOL is a useful marker for evaluating the effectiveness of treatment and moreover is helpful in informing patients and their families regarding the prognosis of their disease. Quality of life (QOL) is defined as individual perception of life in the context of culture and value system and in relation to the individual goals, expectations, standards and concerns [18]. HRQOL concerns the physical, emotional and social aspects of QOL which are influenced by a present disease and its treatment [18]. Several studies found an impaired HRQOL in children and adolescents with JIA [19–23] as well as in JIA-affected adults [13, 24–26] however, most of these studies investigated only small cohorts of patients and did not consider long-term HRQOL [23].

The aim of this study was to investigate HRQOL in adult JIA patients with a wide age range. We compared HRQOL in JIA patients with data from German general population and identified factors associated with poor HRQOL.

Methods

Study design and study population

A single-centre hospital-based cross-sectional study was performed, including current and former rheumatic patients that had been admitted to the German Centre for Rheumatology in Children and Adolescents (DZKJR) between 1952 and 2010 ($n = 10,580$). The DZKJR is treating children with inflammatory rheumatic diseases since 1952 and is Europe's largest specialized department for pediatrics and adolescent rheumatology. The DZKJR is established for their holistic therapy concept that comprises medical care, nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy as well as social-psychological aspects. A self-administered standardized questionnaire was sent in January 2012. When letters were undeliverable, addresses were researched at local registration offices ($n = 5970$); registration is mandatory in Germany. Written informed consent was given by participants or in case of children by their parents. Information of patient records was anonymized and de-identified prior to analysis. The ethics committee of the University Hospital of Munich (LMU) approved the study in September 2011.

Questionnaire

The 23-item self-administered questionnaire assessed

- socio-demographic characteristics (age, sex, level of education, and current occupation) [27, 28],
- HRQOL by means of the EQ5D-3L questionnaire (German language version 1.0) and the EQ visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS) [29–31]. The EQ5D-3L questionnaire evaluates the HRQOL in the five dimensions mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression on a three-point Likert scale ranging from no problems, moderate problems to severe problems. The EQ-VAS measures current overall state of health using a 15 cm long scale labelled from 0 to 100. Participants are asked to mark their current state of health on the scale with zero being the worst and 100 being the best possible state of health.
- Details on rheumatic disease (treatment, drugs, disability, psoriasis) to evaluate long-term outcome of the disease.

The latter questions had to be newly designed for the study and were face-validated by two experts. In addition, a pilot test was performed with six patients of the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine of the University Hospital of Munich (LMU). Thereafter, we tested logistics and acceptance of the questionnaire by sending out 100 questionnaires to a random sample of the target population.

Data extraction from the patient files

In addition to the questionnaire data, date of admission to DZKJR and date of first symptoms were extracted from the medical records for all participants (Fig 1).

Furthermore, based on the patient files we identified JIA patients and excluded those suffering from other (rheumatic) diseases. As the definition of childhood chronic arthritis was changed several times since 1952 [3, 32, 33] we had to re-diagnose patients treated before 1997, the year when the current definition of JIA was put into place. This procedure has formerly been performed in order to evaluate the ILAR criteria for JIA [34]. In our definition, we intended to be as specific as possible, including only the 3698 patients with one of the following diagnoses in their record:

- diagnosis of Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA), Juvenile Chronic Arthritis (JCA) or Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)
- diagnosis of Spondylarthritis or Psoriatic Arthritis, (as these diagnoses are included in the definition of JIA but were not included in JRA and JCA definition)
- diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) or Still's disease with onset before the age of 16 years, disease duration of at least six weeks and no known cause of the symptoms.

Variable definition

Data were double entered by two independent persons using SurveyMonkey (SurveyMonkey Inc., USA); verification was done with Synchronizer 10.0 (2000–2014, XL Consulting GmbH, Switzerland).

As socio-demographic measures we used age (years), sex (male/female) and level of education. We summarized education into high (higher school certificate, university, or college degree), medium (secondary school leaving certificate, or comparable degree) and low level of

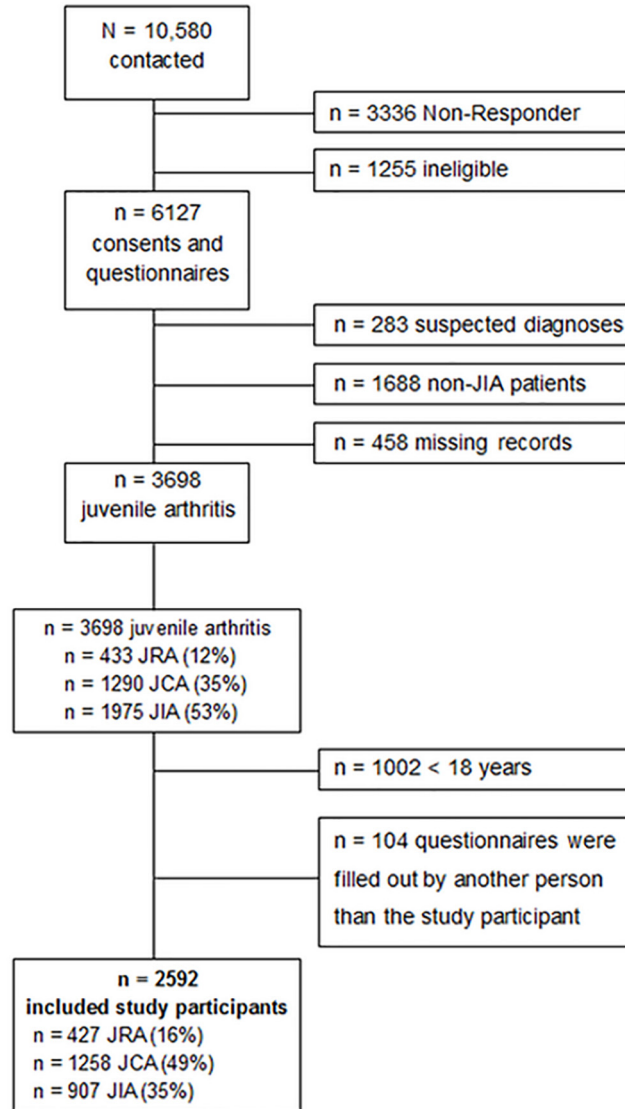


Fig 1. Inclusion of study participants.

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education (lower secondary education level or no degree). For pupils (n = 5) and in case of missing values (n = 48) parents highest education was used as a proxy. In case the parental level of education differed between mother and father, we used the higher level.

For details on the rheumatic disease, we asked for current treatment (yes/no), taking drugs (yes/no), having a disability card (yes/no) and if so what level of disability was registered. As common practice in Germany level of disability was measured on a scale between 0 and 100, where ≥ 50 indicated severe disability.

For each of the five dimensions of the EQ5D-3L questionnaire, problems were defined as either being present (moderate or severe problems) or absent (no problems). Additionally, for multiple analyses the responses to the five dimensions were summarized into the EQ5D_{Index} using the scoring algorithms (VAS-value set) of the German validation study [35]. The resulting index ranges from -1 (worst possible health status) to +1 (best possible health status). We used the first decile of the study population as cut-off to define low HRQOL. Likewise, we

analyzed the responses to the EQ-VAS as continuous outcome as well as the a-priori at the first decile of the study population dichotomized EQ-VAS.

Statistical analyses

Analyses were restricted to JIA patients being 18 years and older, as the EQ5D-3L questionnaire was only validated for adults (≥ 18 years) and to questionnaires which were completed by the participants themselves (Fig 1).

Socio-demographic and disease-related data as well as HRQOL were described using absolute and relative frequencies. For continuous data measures of central tendency (median values) and measures of dispersion (1.-3. quartile and range) were calculated.

In bivariate analyses, HRQOL was stratified by age, according to categories suggested by König et al. [18–24; 25–34; 35–44; 45–54; 55–64; 65–74; 75+ years) and sex and was compared to EQ5D reference data from the German general population. König et al. investigated HRQOL in 3552 adult Germans (1660 men and 1892 women). [36]. In addition, age and sex standardized prevalence with 95% confidence intervals of all HRQOL dimensions were calculated using the German general population [36] as reference.

Subsequently, we developed logistic regression analyses to identify factors associated with poor HRQOL within the population of JIA patients. For these analyses, the dichotomized EQ5D_{Index} as well as the dichotomized EQ-VAS were used as outcome variables. All socio-demographic and disease-related variables associated with the respective outcome ($p_{\text{Chi}^2} < 0.10$) were simultaneously entered into the models. To rule out multi-collinearity the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) was calculated and multi-collinearity was assumed when $\text{VIF} > 2$ [37].

In sensitivity analyses, the five dimensions of EQ5D were used as outcome variables. Additionally, the multiple logistic regression models were repeated including one by one variables previously excluded from the final model due to multi-collinearity. Furthermore, stratified analyses for the diagnoses (JRA/JCA/JIA) were performed to investigate potential differences between these patient groups. As there are two different German value sets to calculate the EQ5D_{Index} and as recommended by the EuroQol Office for sensitivity analyses we used the German TTO-value set [38] instead of the VAS-value set [35] to generate the EQ5D_{Index}.

Stata software version 12.1 (StataCorp LP, USA) was used to perform the described statistical analyses.

Results

Questionnaires and written informed consent were returned from 6127 patients (response 66%). Of these, 3698 (60%) were JIA patients and thus eligible. Of them, 2592 patients (70%) were adults, had completed the questionnaire themselves and could therefore be included in the analyses (Fig 1). Of all included study participants 16% initially had a diagnosis of JRA ($n = 427$), 49% a JCA ($n = 1258$) and 35% had a diagnosis of JIA ($n = 907$) (Fig 1). For 82% of the patients the subgroup of their disease was available. The most frequent subgroup was oligoarthritis (55%), followed by polyarthritis (30%) and the systemic form (6%). All other subgroups each represented less than 4%.

Descriptive data

Age of the patients ranged from 18 to 73 years with more than half of the patients being younger than 35 years (60%). Sixty-two percent were female and 50% had a high level of education. First symptoms occurred at a median age of 8 years (1.-3. quartile: 4–11; range: 0–15) and first admission to DZKJR was at a median age of 12 years (1.-3. quartile: 8–15; range: 1–44). Average disease duration from first symptoms until the time of the survey was 27 years (1.-3.

quartile: 15–40; range: 3–70). More than half of the patients (52%) were currently receiving medical treatment because of ongoing rheumatic disease; 50% were taking medication for JIA treatment. One third of participants reported to have a disability; of these, 30% indicated a severe disability (Table 1).

Health-related quality of life in JIA patients compared to the German general population

Regarding HRQOL, overall age and sex standardized prevalence of problems in JIA patients was highest in the pain dimension (56%), followed by anxiety / depression (28%), limitations in usual activities (26%) and limited mobility (25%). All EQ5D dimensions were statistically significantly worse in JIA patients than in the general German population (Tables 2 and 3 and Fig 2).

Differences between JIA patients and the general population were found to be more pronounced in women than in men (Table 2). With respect to age, problems in the pain dimension were constantly increased in JIA patients independent of age. Although at a lower level, differences in problems in mobility remained stable with increasing age. In contrast, the differences regarding the ability to carry out usual activities increased for men and women with increasing age. Differences in problems with self-care and anxiety/depression were higher in older than in younger women while they remained stable over the different age groups in men.

Factors associated with lower health-related quality of life in JIA patients

When comparing HRQOL of JRA, JCA and JIA patients, no statistically significant differences were found (data not shown). Stratification by status of disease (active/inactive disease) revealed

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics and disease specific data of the study population.

	n _{missing}	n (%)
Total		2592 (100)
Sex	0	
Female		1617 (62.4)
Age (years)	0	
18–24		749 (28.9)
25–34		834 (32.2)
35–44		555 (21.4)
45–54		345 (13.3)
55–76		109 (4.2)
Level of education	14	
Low		438 (17.0)
Medium		846 (32.8)
High		1294 (50.2)
Disease duration since first symptoms	1521	
Median (1./3. quartile) (range) (years)		27 (15/40) (3–70)
Age at first symptoms	1521	
Median (1./3. quartile) (range) (years)		8 (4/11) (0–15)
Currently in treatment for rheumatic disease	4	1352 (52.2)
Currently taking drugs	5	1298 (50.2)
Disability card holder	6	934 (36.1)
Severe disability	16	783 (30.4)
Psoriasis	83	249 (9.9)

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Table 2. Age and gender stratified comparison of the EQ5D domains between JIA patients and the German general population^a.

Men (% reporting moderate or severe problems)								
Age in years	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75+	Men Overall
German general population	127	259	389	290	292	205	98	1660
JIA patients	225	296	240	170	31	13	0	975
Mobility								
German general population	0.8	3.1	6.4	17.2	20.9	30.2	41.8	14.9
JIA patients ^b	7.6	14.5	13.8	21.2	29.0	30.8	0	18.7
Δ	6.8	11.4	7.3	3.9	8.1	0.5	-	3.7
Self-care								
German general population	0.0	0.4	0.8	1.7	2.4	4.4	11.2	2.2
JIA patients ^b	1.3	3.0	3.3	4.7	9.7	23.1	0	6.7
Δ	1.3	2.7	2.6	3.0	7.3	18.7	-	4.6
Usual activities								
German general population	3.2	1.9	3.9	10.7	11.0	17.6	25.5	8.9
JIA patients ^b	7.1	13.5	15.0	21.2	22.6	30.8	0	17.6
Δ	4.0	11.6	11.1	10.5	11.6	13.2	-	8.7
Pain/discomfort								
German general population	9.5	17.8	16.5	28.3	31.9	37.1	41.8	24.9
JIA patients ^b	44.0	45.6	44.2	54.7	58.1	69.2	0	49.2
Δ	34.6	27.9	27.7	26.4	26.2	32.2	-	24.2
Anxiety/depression								
German general population	3.9	3.1	2.3	4.5	4.1	3.9	5.1	3.6
JIA patients ^b	15.6	17.9	17.9	27.7	19.4	15.4	0	18.3
Δ	11.6	14.8	15.6	23.2	15.3	11.5	-	14.7
Women (% reporting moderate or severe problems)								
Age in years	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75+	Women Overall
German general population	137	292	449	347	305	213	149	1892
JIA patients	524	538	315	175	55	10	0	1617
Mobility								
German general population	4.4	4.8	4.2	11.5	22.3	37.6	61.1	16.8
JIA patients ^b	15.5	22.1	27.0	39.4	43.6	50.0	0	30.8
Δ	11.1	17.3	22.8	27.9	21.3	12.4	-	14.0
Self-care								
German general population	0.7	0.3	1.3	2.0	2.0	7.0	18.8	3.4
JIA patients ^b	3.2	6.3	11.1	18.9	14.6	40.0	0	14.2
Δ	2.5	6.0	9.8	16.8	12.6	33.0	-	10.8
Usual activities								
German general population	4.4	4.5	3.8	5.5	15.4	19.7	38.9	10.7
JIA patients ^b	16.6	22.1	31.1	37.7	41.8	60.0	0	32.4
Δ	12.2	17.7	27.3	32.2	26.4	40.3	-	21.7
Pain/discomfort								
German general population	16.1	17.8	20.9	27.1	37.7	47.4	59.7	30.0
JIA patients ^b	57.3	67.1	65.1	66.3	72.7	80.0	0	62.8
Δ	41.2	49.3	44.1	39.2	35.0	32.6	-	32.9
Anxiety/depression								
German general population	5.1	4.1	4.2	5.2	4.6	5.6	6.7	4.9
JIA patients ^b	25.8	29.7	31.4	38.3	41.8	80.0	0	36.7

(Continued)

Table 2. (Continued)

Δ	20.7	25.6	27.2	33.1	37.2	74.4	-	31.8
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Δ : Difference between German general population and JIA patients.

^a German data of König et al 2009;

^b Data for the JIA patients directly age and sex standardized to the general population.

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more problems in patients with active diseases in all dimensions of the EQ5D ($p < 0.001$) (S2 Table).

The median EQ5DIndex of the study population was 0.902 (1.-3. quartile: 0.737–1; range 0.036–1), the EQ-VAS value 80 (1.-3. quartile: 70–90; range 0 to 100). The first decile, a priori used as cut-off to define lower HRQOL, was 0.622 for the EQ5DIndex and 50 for the EQ-VAS values.

As in the analyses of the single items of the EQ5D, women and older patients more often reported a lower HRQOL than men and younger patients ($p < 0.001$). This was true for both the EQ5DIndex and the EQ-VAS. Likewise, a lower level of education was also related with

Table 3. Overall comparison of problems in EQ5D domains between JIA patients and the German general population^a.

	Overall % (95%-CI)
Total (n)	
German general population	3552
JIA patients	2592
Mobility	
German general population	15.9 (14.8;17.2)
JIA patients ^b	25.2 (23.7;26.6)
Δ	9.2
Self-care	
German general population	2.8 (2.3;3.4)
JIA patients ^b	10.7 (9.7;11.8)
Δ	7.9
Usual activities	
German general population	9.9 (8.9;10.9)
JIA patients ^b	25.5 (24.1;27.0)
Δ	15.7
Pain/discomfort	
German general population	27.6 (26.2;29.1)
JIA patients ^b	56.4 (54.8;58.1)
Δ	28.8
Anxiety/depression	
German general population	4.3 (3.6;5.0)
JIA patients ^b	28.1 (26.6;29.6)
Δ	23.8

95%-CI: 95% Confidence Interval. Δ : Difference between German general population and JIA patients.

^a German data of König et al 2009;

^b Data for the JIA patients directly age and sex standardized to the general population.

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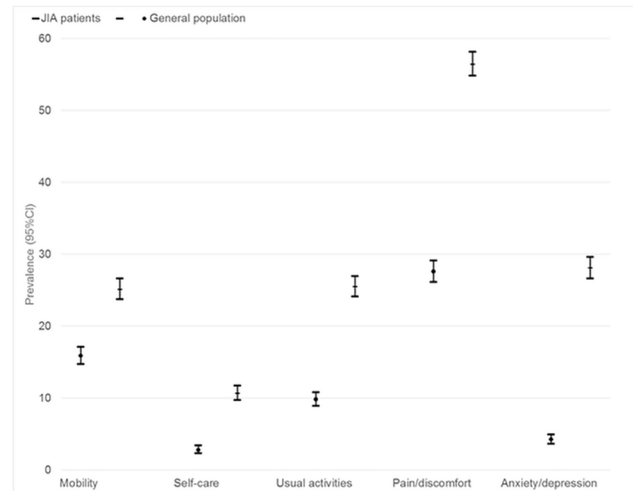


Fig 2. Health-related quality of life in JIA patients and the general German population. Age and gender standardized prevalence of problems in the five EQ5D dimensions with 95% confidence intervals.

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reporting a lower HRQOL ($p < 0.001$). Regarding disease-related factors, we found an association between treatment, taking drugs, having a disability card—especially suffering severe disability—as well as longer disease duration and both measures of lower HRQOL ($p < 0.001$). Age at first symptoms was weakly (EQ5DIndex, $p = 0.04$), respectively not (EQ-VAS, $p = 0.34$) associated with HRQOL. Finally, patients reporting psoriasis were more likely to report a lower HRQOL (statistically significant only for EQ5DIndex, $p = 0.002$) (Table 4 and S1 Table). After mutual adjustment, associations were confirmed; however, Odds Ratios (OR) slightly decreased (Table 4). Associations for particular EQ5D dimensions were similar to those for the overall EQ5DIndex (S1 Table). Including variables previously excluded due to multi-collinearity in the multivariate models, the results did not change considerably (data not shown). Applying the German TTO-value set instead of the German VAS-value set to form the EQ5DIndex, only resulted in a slightly change of the median (0.887 vs. 0.901) (data not shown).

Discussion

Our study population of JIA patients retraced in adulthood reported more problems in all five dimensions of the EQ5D than the general population. This was especially true for the pain domain. In total, half of all patients were still in treatment and taking drugs because of their disease. One third of participants reported having a disability card, 30% of them indicated a severe disability. Socio-demographics (female, older age, lower education) and disease-related factors (being in treatment, taking drugs, having a disability) were main predictors of lower HRQOL.

In order to assess HRQOL in the general population we compared our results to reference data from German general population [36]. After direct standardization using the general population as reference, JIA patients still showed more problems in all EQ5D dimensions. Therefore, we concluded that JIA patients are impaired with regard to HRQOL. Nevertheless, differences in study design especially in data assessment have to be considered; we did a paper survey and König et al. [36] conducted computer-assisted personal interviews, this might result in some social desirability bias in the study by König et al. and thus under-reporting of

Table 4. Associations between general and disease specific factors and HRQOL in JIA patients. Results of bivariate analyses and logistic regression models with EQ5D_{Index} as Outcome.

Complete cases n = 2456	Low HRQOL (low EQ5D _{Index})			
	% (n)	P _{Chi2}	Crude OR	Adjusted OR ^a
Sex				
Male	7.63 (70)	p<0.001	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
Female	14.55 (224)		2.06 (1.55;2.73)	1.74 (1.27;2.38)
Age				
18–24 years	7.31 (52)	p<0.001	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
25–34 years	11.82 (94)		1.70 (1.19;2.42)	1.63 (1.12;2.37)
35–44 years	11.13 (58)		1.59 (1.07;2.35)	1.43 (0.94;2.18)
45–54 years	20.18 (66)		3.20 (2.17;4.74)	3.38 (2.18;5.25)
55–76 years	23.53 (24)		3.90 (2.28;6.68)	3.72 (1.99;6.93)
Level of education				
High	8.02 (100)	p<0.001	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
Medium	14.11 (113)		1.88 (1.42;2.51)	1.70 (1.25;2.32)
Low	19.85 (81)		2.84 (2.07;3.90)	2.42 (1.70;3.45)
Currently in treatment for rheumatism				
No	3.66 (43)	p<0.001	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes	19.58 (251)		6.40 (4.58;8.95)	1.88 (1.14;3.08)
Currently taking drugs				
No	3.60 (44)	p<0.001	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes	20.28 (250)		6.81 (4.89;9.49)	2.98 (1.85;4.79)
Disability card holder				
No	4.80 (75)	p<0.001	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes	24.55 (219)		6.46 (4.89;8.53)	2.79 (2.03;3.82)
Severe disability^b				
No (DoB <50)	8.09 (11)	p<0.001	n. r.	n. r.
Yes (DoB ≥50)	27.61 (206)			
No disability	4.80 (75)			
Psoriasis				
No	11.31 (250)	p = 0.002	1.00 (Ref.)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes	17.96 (44)		1.72 (1.21;2.44)	1.38 (0.93;2.05)
Disease duration since first symptoms^b				
0–5 years	18.75 (3)	p<0.001	n. r.	n. r.
6–10 years	7.14 (6)			
11–20 years	8.70 (26)			
21–40 years	12.21 (48)			
41-max years	24.20 (53)			
Age at first symptoms^b				
0–2 years	17.50 (28)	p = 0.041	n. r.	n. r.
3–5 years	15.46 (32)			
6–8 years	13.86 (28)			
9–10 years	7.25 (10)			
11–12 years	9.26 (15)			

(Continued)

Table 4. (Continued)

Complete cases n = 2456	Low HRQOL (low EQ5D _{Index})			
	OR (95% CI)			
	% (n)	P _{Chi2}	Crude OR	Adjusted OR ^a
13–15 years	16.20 (23)			

OR: Odds Ratio, 95% CI: 95% confidence interval, Ref: reference, HRQOL: health-related quality of life, n.r.: not reported. Complete case analyses n = 2456. Low EQ VAS was defined by 1st decile of EQ VAS values (<50). Low EQ5D_{Index} was defined by 1st decile of EQ5D_{Index} values (≤0.622). The five dimensions of EQ5D were dichotomized to presence (moderate and severe problems) and absence of problems, having problems was used as outcome.

^a mutual adjustment for all other variables listed in the table.

^bVariables excluded from multivariate analyses due to multi-collinearity.

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symptoms. However, it is unlikely to explain the huge differences found between the two populations.

Some former studies which compared HRQOL of JIA patients with general population or healthy controls among children and adolescents [20, 22, 23] found an impairment of patients with JIA. In adults, there are far fewer studies that investigated HRQOL in comparison with healthy controls or general population [7, 24, 25]; their results are contradictory; moreover, only small cohorts were investigated. The variation in the results might be due to different study designs. It should be considered that most of the HRQOL studies in JIA patients used different quality of life measurement instruments and investigated different determinants; therefore a comparison of HRQOL between these studies is difficult. The cohorts differ regarding age of participants and therefore disease duration as an important predictor for HRQOL [21]. Moreover differences in the national health systems concerning treatment strategies might be relevant [39] as well as changes in treatment within the last decade.

Only one previous study by Marra et al. [40] used the EQ5D to investigate HRQOL in adult RA patients but did not compare data to general population. Overall they found, compared to our data, even lower values for HRQOL (EQ5D_{Index} mean values: 0.66 in [40] vs. 0.84 in our population). It has to be taken into account that they included only patients under current treatment who were considerably older than our patients (mean age: 62 in [40] vs. 33 years in our population). When we restricted our analyses to those patients who were currently under treatment, we obtained a mean EQ5D_{Index} of 0.77 which is rather similar to the value obtained by Marra et al. [40].

Previous studies that investigated determinants for HRQOL in adults also found that female gender [24], being older [41] and disability [25, 26] were associated with a lower HRQOL. In our cohort patients being under medical treatment and currently taking medications for JIA disease demonstrated a significant impairment of their HRQOL. Using these variables as a proxy for having an active disease, our results are in line with previous studies [10, 24]. Moreover, pain has been shown to be primarily responsible for poor HRQOL in adults [42]; for children, high levels of depression symptoms were found to be a main predictor [43]. Both are consistent with our result as patients mainly reported problems in these domains.

We found no statistically significant differences when comparing HRQOL of JRA, JCA and JIA patients. The different nomenclature (JRA/JCA/JIA) depends on when diagnosed. Therefore, one could have expected that younger patients which were more recently treated with more effective medications had a better HRQOL. However, with our data we could not confirm this hypothesis. JIA patients had an impaired HRQOL independent of age and of diagnosis (JRA/JCA/JIA).

Due to multi-collinearity we had to exclude disease duration, age at first symptoms and severe disability from the multiple logistic regression models. Although duration of disease might be a considerable determinant of HRQOL we used age as a proxy mainly because of the high number of missing values in the other two variables (each $n = 1521$). The many missing values occurred since date of onset of disease is difficult to define.

The EQ5D was used to describe HRQOL. The EQ5D is a standardized, non-disease-specific and easy-to-use instrument with high reliability and validity [31, 44]. Since collection and interpretation of EQ5D data is completely standardized, high objectivity of the results can be assumed. As one focus of our study was to compare HRQOL of JIA patients with that of the general population, a generic instrument appeared to be an appropriate tool. Moreover the EQ5D was previously validated for the German population [38] as well as for RA [45].

Limitations of our research may include that we may have overestimated HRQOL as we excluded the potentially more severe cases that were not able to fill out the questionnaire on their own or patients with a particular severe disease might have died in the mean-time. This was unavoidable as the EQ5D version used is not validated for proxy assessment. On the other hand we may have a priori included more severe cases and consequently underestimated HRQOL as we recruited our patients in a specialized hospital and by a possibly increased response from particularly severe cases. However, distribution of subgroups with Oligo- and Polyarthritis as the most common subgroups in our study population was similar to that of the general population. In addition, our results are not valid for patients <18 years. In future studies the now available EQ5D-Y could be used [46]. A further limitation was the cross-sectional data assessment: We illustrated long-term HRQOL by including patients with a broad age range and thus disease duration. Thereby, we cannot assess time course of HRQOL in JIA patients as this can only be assessed prospectively.

The main strength is the large study population and the relatively high participation rate. Our findings provide current data on the HRQOL of JIA patients in the age range of 18–73 years. This is a valuable basis in order to perform periodically updates considering the impact of new treatment approaches in the future [12]. Moreover, we did an age and sex standardized comparison with reference data and therefore provide valid conclusions with regard to HRQOL of JIA patients in comparison to general population.

Conclusion

Our findings suggest that HRQOL of JIA patients is considerably lower than in the general population. Additionally older age, female gender, level of education, disability and still being under rheumatic treatment were the main predictors of poor HRQOL. New therapeutic schemes available today might help to improve HRQOL in future.

Supporting Information

S1 Table. Determinants of reporting problems in EQ5D dimensions.

(DOCX)

S2 Table. Health-related quality of life stratified by status of JIA (active/inactive disease).

(DOCX)

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Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: KR JPH BB HM. Performed the experiments: SB JS JM BB BH KR. Analyzed the data: SB JPH HM KR. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: SB JPH JS JM BB HM BH KR. Wrote the paper: SB JPH JS JM BB HM BH KR.

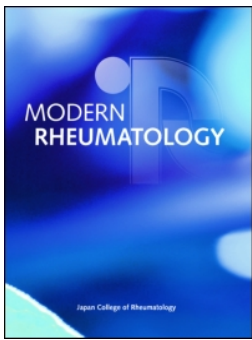
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2. Incidence of malignancies in patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis: A retrospective single-center cohort study in Germany






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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Incidence of malignancies in patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis: A retrospective single-center cohort study in Germany

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Abstract

Objectives: In recent years, concern has been raised about Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) that it could be associated with an increased risk for malignancies. Therefore, the cancer incidence in the JIA patients was evaluated and compared to the cancer incidence in the German population.

Methods: A retrospective single-center hospital-based cohort study was performed using data on the JIA patients treated between 1952 and 2010 at the German Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology (GCPAR) (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany). Self-administered standardized questionnaires were sent out in 2012. Standardized incidence ratios (SIRs) and their corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) were calculated.

Results: The study cohort consisted of 3691 JIA patients, and the response rate was 66%. Patients age ranged from 3 to 73 years of which 64% were female. Total follow-up time was 60,075 person-years; a history of malignancy was reported by 47 patients. Most common types of cancer were melanoma ($n = 11$), cervical cancer ($n = 8$) and breast cancer ($n = 7$). The overall SIR for women was 1.19 (95%CI: 0.77; 1.60) and for men was 0.67 (95%CI: 0.27; 1.07). The SIR for melanoma was 3.21 (95%CI: 1.60; 5.73) in women, whereas in men no melanoma cases were observed.

Conclusion: Although no overall increased cancer risk was found, results suggest that the risk of melanoma might be increased in female JIA patients.

Keywords

Cancer; Incidence; Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA); Malignancy; Melanoma; Rheumatology

History

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Introduction

Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is the most common inflammatory rheumatic disease in children. JIA includes all forms of arthritis without other causes, with onset before the age of 16 years, persisting for at least six weeks [1,2]. In the last decade, concern was that JIA could be associated with an increased risk for malignancies. It has already been established in other chronic inflammatory disorders as Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) that the disease itself favors the occurrence of malignant tumors [3]. In the context of RA in adults, an increased incidence of cancer has been shown, especially in highly active diseases [4–6]. A current systematic review concluded that there was a slightly increased incidence of melanoma for adult RA patients [7].

Concerning JIA, evidence for an association with increased cancer rates is limited [8]. In analogy to RA, it has been discussed that JIA itself might be associated with an increased cancer risk [8,9] as some studies found an elevated risk of malignancies

[10–12] whereas others found no increased cancer risk [11,13–15]. In order to draw a sound conclusion more longitudinal data are needed [8,9,16]. Recently, a JIA register was started in Germany to obtain data on long-term outcome of patients. In 2012, data on 608 patients were available [17], but it will take several more years to collect reliable prospective outcome data.

For this reason, we performed a retrospective cohort study and compared cancer incidence in JIA patients to cancer registry rates for the German population.

Materials and methods

A retrospective single-center hospital-based cohort study was carried out. All current and former JIA patients who had been admitted to the German Centre for Pediatric and adolescent rheumatology (GCPAR) (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany), between 1952 and 2010 ($n = 10,580$), were included. All patients were sent a self-administered standardized questionnaire including an informed consent form at the beginning of 2012. If letters were undelivered, addresses were checked at the local registration offices ($n = 5970$). This was possible because registration at the local office is required by law in Germany. The study was approved by the medical ethics committee of the University Hospital of Munich in September 2011.

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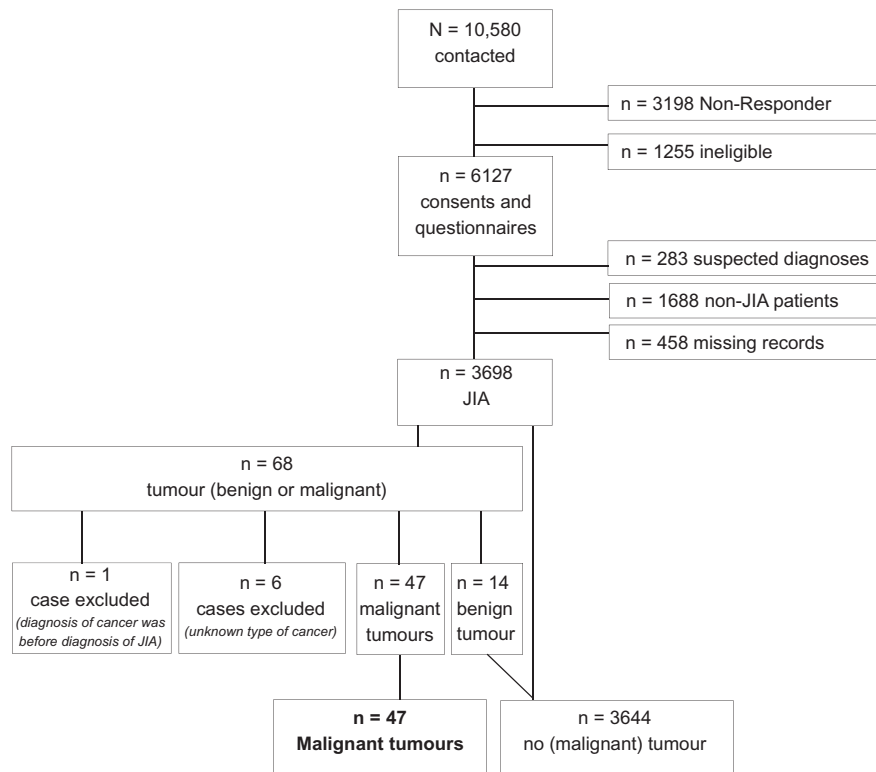


Figure 1. Inclusion of study participants.

Questionnaire

A 23-item self-administered questionnaire from previous work [18] was used to assess socio-demographic characteristics [19,20] details on rheumatic disease, cancer history and some other information. However, the questions on rheumatic disease had to be newly designed for the current study and were face-validated by two experienced pediatric rheumatologists (JPH, HM). Subsequently, the questionnaire and study design were pre-tested within a feasibility study, which resulted in slight modifications to those questions that had not previously been validated [21]. The final version of the questionnaire was again pilot tested with six patients from the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine of the University Hospital of Munich (LMU). In the last test-phase, 100 questionnaires were sent out to a random sample of the target population to test logistics and questionnaire understanding.

Data from medical patient records

In addition to self-reported questionnaire data, data were extracted from the patients' medical records (date of first admission to the GCPAR and date of first symptoms) (Figure 1).

The medical records were used to classify participants into JIA patients and patients with other (rheumatic) diseases. This procedure was successfully performed at the GCPAR before [22]. Moreover, it was necessary to re-diagnose patients treated before 1997 because definition of childhood chronic arthritis was changed several times [3,23]. Up to 1977, different terms were used with no unique classification system. In 1978, the term Juvenile Chronic Arthritis (JCA) was introduced and finally revised by the internationally standardized term JIA [23]. As described before [18], all participants with one of the following diagnosis in their record were defined as JIA patients and included into the study population:

- Diagnosis of JIA according to the ILAR-classification criteria.

- Diagnosis of Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA), JCA or JIA.
- Diagnosis of Spondylarthritis or Psoriatic Arthritis, (because these diagnoses were included in the definition of JIA but were not included in JRA and JCA definition).
- Diagnosis of RA or Still's disease with onset before the age of 16 years, disease duration of at least six weeks and no known cause of the symptoms.

Data entry and variable definitions

Two independent persons (JS, SB) entered data in a SurveyMonkey database (SurveyMonkey Inc., Ireland); verification was done with Synkronizer 10.0 (©2000–2014, XL Consulting GmbH, Switzerland).

Socio-demographic characteristics were assessed by questions on age (years), sex (male/female) and education of the study participant and their parents. As described previously [18], the level of education was based on the level of graduation and was summarized into high, medium and low education. For pupils ($n = 1081$), children (< 6 years) ($n = 63$) and for those who did not indicate their level of education ($n = 67$), the highest education of their parents was used as a proxy.

Patients were asked if they had ever been diagnosed with cancer; and if so, what type of cancer was diagnosed in which year. Subsequently, cancer diagnoses were coded according to ICD9 because this was the coding applied by the Saarland Cancer Registry (Germany) [24]. ICD 140-208 were classified as malignant tumors and were used as outcome for further analyses. For each patient, only the first tumor diagnosis was considered.

In order to validate information on cancer diagnosis, the JIA cohort was linked to the Bavarian cancer registry. The Bavarian registry was chosen because JIA cohort members living in Bavaria were the largest of the regional sub-cohorts (35% of the cohort lived in Bavaria). Data linkage had to be limited to the

years 1998–2011 because data from the Bavarian cancer registry was not available for other years. Data on the cohort members (name, first name, sex, birthdate, age in years, and postal code) were provided to the office of confidence of the Bavarian cancer registry, where data was pseudonymised and forwarded to the register office where information on cancer of the population is stored. This register office was then able to provide aggregated incidence rates for the JIA cohort stratified by 5-year-age groups. In order to check for selection bias due to selective non-response of cancer patients, cancer incidences for non-responders living in Bavaria were also supplied by the Bavarian cancer register.

Statistical analyses

Statistical analyses were limited to JIA patients. Socio-demographics as well as occurrence of cancer were described using absolute and relative frequencies. For continuous data, measures of central tendency (median values) and measures of dispersion (1st–3rd quartile and range) were calculated. In bivariate analyses, frequency of cancer was stratified by age and sex.

To compare cancer incidence in the JIA cohort with the German general population, standardized incidence ratios (SIRs) and their corresponding 95% Wald confidence intervals (95% CIs) were calculated. As reference data for direct standardization, age- and calendar-year-specific incidence rates from Saarland cancer registry were used [24]. The Saarland cancer registry was chosen because it provides data for longer calendar periods than the other German registries (1967–2011) and the Saarland registry data is considered to be complete. Therefore, data from the Saarland registry is assumed to be representative for Germany. SIRs stratified for sex were calculated. For cancer types with more than 10 cases, stratified analyses were done. Person-years of follow-up were calculated for each participant from date of first admission to the hospital, as a proxy for beginning of JIA, until diagnosis of malignancy or end of study period (2012), stratified by calendar year, age group and sex. One individual with a history of cancer before diagnosis of JIA was excluded for these analyses. For sensitivity analyses, person-years were calculated using date of birth instead of date of first admission to the hospital. In this analyses, the subject with cancer diagnosis before JIA diagnosis was included again.

Person-years and SIRs were calculated using Microsoft Excel (Redmond, WA) and EPICURE software (Canada) [25]. The remaining statistical analyses were performed using the stata software version 12.1 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

Results

A total of 10,580 patients were invited to fill in the questionnaire and only 6127 patients completed the questionnaire and written informed consent (response: 66%). From the responding patients, 3698 patients (60%) were identified to suffer from JIA. Sixty-eight patients reported a tumor history (2%), 48 of which were identified as having a malignant tumor. Six patients were excluded because they did not provide any information on cancer type and so no information on the malignancy status of their tumor could be determined. One additional case had to be excluded because the cancer occurred before diagnosis of JIA. This left a final total of 3691 patients for the study cohort (47 malignant cases and 3644 with no malignant cancer) (Figure 1).

Age of patients ranged from 3 to 73 years. Sixty-four percent were female and almost 50% had a high level of education (Table 1).

The total follow-up time was 60,075 person-years (Table 2). The median individual time of follow-up was 25 years (1st–3rd quartile: 17–36 years; range: 3–73 years). Of all the malignancies, 74%

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics and disease-specific data of the study population.

	<i>n</i> _{missing}	<i>n</i> (%)
Total		3691 (100)
Sex of the participant		
Female	0	2373 (64.3)
Age (years)		
0–17	0	1000 (27.1)
18–24		815 (22.1)
25–34		855 (23.2)
35–44		563 (15.3)
45–54		349 (9.5)
55–76		109 (3.0)
Education of participant ^a		
Low	49	648 (17.8)
Medium		1217 (33.4)
High		1777 (48.8)
Parental education		
Low	443	859 (26.5)
Medium		1046 (32.2)
High		1343 (41.4)
Disease duration since first symptoms (years)		
Median (1st–3rd quartile) (range)	1885	14 (8;35) (0;70)
Age at first symptoms (years)		
Median (1st–3rd quartile) (range)	1931	6 (3;10) (0;15)

^aLevel of education was summarized into high (higher school certificate, university, or college degree), medium (secondary school leaving certificate, or comparable degree) and low (lower secondary education level or no degree). For children (*n* = 63), pupils (*n* = 1081) and for those who did not indicate their level of education (*n* = 67), the highest parental level of education was used as a proxy.

(*n* = 35) appeared in women and 26% (*n* = 12) appeared in men. The most frequently observed type of cancer were melanoma (*n* = 11), cervical cancer (*n* = 8) and breast cancer (*n* = 7) (Table 3). Most cancer diagnosis occurred in the age-groups of 35–44 years (*n* = 14) and 45–54 years (*n* = 13) (Supplementary Table A1). The median age at cancer diagnosis was 32 years (1st–3rd quartile: 28–45 years; range: 11–64 years). Median duration from onset of JIA to diagnosis of the malignant tumor was 29 years (1st–3rd quartile: 26–37; range: 10–54 years) (Table 3).

The validation of the Bavarian cancer cases revealed consistent results (11 cases (0.85%) in the study population compared to nine (0.69%) in the cancer registry) (data not shown). The data from the Bavarian cancer registry revealed a lower number of cancer cases in the group of non-responder compared with the respondents (0.69% cases in responder vs. 0.32% cases in non-responder) (data not shown).

The overall SIR for all malignancies was 0.99 (95%CI: 0.69; 1.29). The SIR for women was 1.19 (95%CI: 0.77; 1.60) and for men 0.67 (95%CI: 0.27; 1.07) (Table 3). Using birthdate instead of JIA diagnosis as cohort entry, the SIRs were slightly reduced (overall SIR: 0.89 (95%CI: 0.62; 1.15); SIR females: 1.07 (95%CI: 0.69; 1.45)), reaching the level of statistical significance for JIA patients (SIR males: 0.59 (95%CI: 0.24; 0.95)) (Table 2).

The SIR for melanoma was 3.21 (95%CI: 1.60; 5.73) in women using JIA diagnosis as beginning of observation, whereas in men no melanoma cases were observed.

Discussion

Main findings

We observed 47 malignancies in 3691 JIA patients. Melanoma, cervical cancer, and breast cancer were the most common cancer types. The overall SIR showed no increased risk of cancer in JIA patients compared to the German general population. SIR for

Table 2. Cancer in JIA patients stratified by sex.

	<i>n</i> _{missing}	Male <i>n</i> (%)	Female <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Total		1318 (35.7)	2373 (64.3)	3691 (100)
Tumor (benign or malignant)				
No	0	1300 (98.6)	2329 (98.2)	3629 (98.3)
Yes		18 (1.4)	44 (1.9)	62 (1.7)
Malignant tumor				
No	0	1306 (99.1)	2338 (98.5)	3644 (98.7)
Yes		12 (0.9)	35 (1.5)	47 (1.3)
Type of malignant tumor				
Melanoma	0	0	11	11
Cervical cancer		0	8	8
Breast cancer		0	7	7
Leukemia		1	3	4
Bone tumor		3	1	4
Brain tumor		1	2	3
Lymphoma		1	1	2
Testicular tumor		2	0	2
Prostate carcinoma		2	0	2
Pancreas cancer		0	1	1
Other		2	1	3
Age at cancer diagnosis (year)	1			
Median (1st–3rd quartile) (range)		31 (23;51.75) (15;64)	33 (28;45) (11;53)	32 (27.75;45) (11;64)
Duration of follow up (birthdate until diagnosis of cancer or 2012) (years)	0			
Median (1st–3rd quartile) (range)		27 (18;40) (3;69)	23 (16;33) (3;73)	25 (17;36) (3;73)
Duration from JIA diagnosis to cancer	21			
Median (1st–3rd quartile) (range)		47 (20;53.5) (10;54)	28 (25;36) (11;41)	29 (25.5;37) (10;54)

Table 3. Standardized incidence ratios.

Sex	Cohort entry was JIA diagnosis			Cohort entry was birthdate (<i>sensitivity analysis</i>)		
	SIR (95%CI) ^a	Observed cases ^b	person-years	SIR (95%CI) ^a	Observed cases ^b	Person-years
Total	0.987 (0.688;1.285)	42	60,075	0.885 (0.618;1.153)	43	93,152
Women	1.186 (0.769;1.604)	31	36,643	1.072 (0.695;1.449)	32	57,249
Men	0.670 (0.274;1.065)	11	23,432	0.594 (0.243;0.945)	11	35,903

^aThe rate was standardized to the age and sex distribution per calendar year of the Saarland cancer registry data. ^bWhen JIA diagnosis was used as cohort entry one case with diagnosis of cancer before diagnosis of JIA had to be excluded.

males was borderline significantly reduced when using birthdate instead of JIA diagnosis as beginning of observation. In women with JIA, risk of melanoma was increased.

Our result of no increased cancer risk in JIA patients is in line with some [11,13,15], but not all, previous studies [10,12]. One study by Simard et al. [11] was a national cohort study from Sweden to investigate young JIA patients (children and adults) and compared their cancer incidence with the general population. For the whole cohort, they did not find an increased rate of cancer in JIA patients [11]. Another study examined data from JIA registries and calculated SIR by a linkage of patients with the regional cancer registries. However, they also did not find an increased cancer risk for JIA patients [13]. A report by Burmester et al. (2013) on the analyses of 71 clinical trials with a total of 23,458 patients with similar diagnoses as the patients in our study also found no increase in the overall cancer incidence rate [15]. In contrast, other, more recent, studies in children with JIA found an increased incidence of cancer [10,12]. Both studies investigated a cohort of JIA patients and compared their cancer incidence with a matched cohort of patients without JIA. These results were supported by a recently published review, which concluded that JIA is associated with an increased background risk for malignancies [9].

Differences between our results and previous studies might result from differences in the observation periods, study

populations varying treatment options. Moreover, varying study results might be due to different study designs.

In stratified analyses, we found an increased SIR for melanoma in women. This result is consistent with several previous studies [7,15,16]. A recently published systematic review concluded no overall increased risk for malignancies in RA patients, however, in cancer type specific analyses, the risk for melanoma was increased as well [26]. Meta-analyses combining the results of existing studies might help to understand whether risk of specific cancer types especially of melanoma is actually increased in JIA patients. That the incidence of melanoma is only increased in women, may be attributable to the young study population. In the German general population, incidence of melanoma in younger age groups is increased in women [27].

In sensitivity analyses, we used date of birth instead of date of first admission to the GCPAR as cohort entry. This was done in order to test whether genetics might put JIA patients at increased cancer risk or whether the underlying inflammatory process of the JIA might increase cancer risk [3–5]. The overall SIRs did not differ largely regardless of date at cohort entry. However, the SIR was statistically significant and reduced in male JIA patients when birthdate was used instead of first admission. This would support the hypothesis that the inflammatory process of the JIA disease might increase cancer risk. In this context, it must be considered whether the change of treatment over the years is associated with

an increased cancer risk. This was investigated by the authors elsewhere [28].

Limitations of the study

Limitations of our study may include that we cannot rule out underreporting or misclassification of cases. However, linkage with the Bavarian cancer registry is only suggestive of a slight overestimation of cancer as out of the 11 cases in our study, nine cases were confirmed. Beside overestimation, it could also be that the remaining two cases were diagnosed in another Federal State of Germany. Therefore, bias due to misclassification of disease seems to be a minor limitation. If this bias is present, it would have introduced an overestimation of the cancer incidence in our study population and thus an even lower SIRs. Selection bias due to selective non-response of cancer patients is unlikely to have had an effect here, as data of Bavarian cancer registry showed that frequency of cancer was lower in non-responder patients. In the calculations of the SIR, we had to rely on the cancer registry of one Federal State (Saarland) as it provides the best available data with the longest period of observation (1967–2011) and a completeness of more than 95%. However, it is not likely that cancer incidence varies largely across Germany and therefore, we consider our comparison population to be a valid approximation to the true cancer incidence in the underlying source population.

Strength of the study

The strength of this large cohort study is that we achieved a considerable proportion of current and former patients with an on average long follow-up time. However, due to the nature of the study follow-up time varied largely from 3 to 73 years. Individual data could be obtained for all participants.

Conclusion

We found no overall increased cancer risk in JIA patients compared to German general population. Our study suggests that the risk of melanoma might be increased in female JIA patients.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest. The authors thanks "Verein Hilfe für das rheumakranke Kind e.V." for the generous grant supporting this study.

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Supplementary material available online

3. Association between drug intake and incidence of malignancies in patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a nested case-control study

SHORT REPORT

Open Access



Association between drug intake and incidence of malignancies in patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a nested case–control study

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Abstract

Background: Several medications for treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) are considered to be carcinogenic. Therefore, the aim was to assess whether there is an association between therapeutic interventions and malignancies in JIA patients.

Findings: A nested case–control study was carried out within a retrospective cohort study of 3698 JIA patients diagnosed between 1952 and 2010. All 48 JIA patients with a diagnosis of a malignant tumour and up to four matched controls for each received a questionnaire about their use of medication. Subsequently treatment was compared between cases and controls and analyses performed for 37 cases and 125 controls (response 88.5 %). Treatment with DMARD (84 %) was most frequently used, followed by glucocorticoids (66 %) and immunosuppressives (65 %). Twenty percent reported to have ever been taking biologics. Medication use did not differ significantly between cases and controls.

Conclusions: Our results did not show an association between medications used and malignancies in JIA patients.

Keywords: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), Malignancy, Cancer, Incidence, Drug intake, Biologics, Tumour necrosis factor α

Findings

Introduction

Patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) are considered to be at higher risk of malignancies than the general population [1]. Potential explanations for this increased risk might be the inflammatory process underlying the disease [2], frequent use of diagnostic procedures involving exposure to ionizing radiation [3] or therapeutic interventions [1].

Over the last two decades, new therapeutic options seem to have considerably improved treatment and outcome [4–7]. Substantial therapeutic improvement was

achieved through the introduction of biologic agents [4] such as Tumour-necrosis-factor-alpha (TNF α)-blockers for example [4, 8]. However, concerns about these medications were first risen in 2008 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) resulting in a warning about a possible association between the use of TNF α -blockers and the development of malignancies in children and young adults [9]. However, since subsequent studies could not confirm such an association for patients with JIA treated with TNF α -blockers, it has been suggested that the association between TNF α -blockers and malignancy might be confounded by the concomitant intake of immunosuppressive agents [10] or by the inflammatory process itself [2, 11].

Most recently published reviews on the subject matter concluded that an association between use of biologics and malignancies is unlikely, but that more long-term

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studies are needed to be able to draw definite conclusions [1, 4, 12]. Therefore, this study carried out a retrospective cohort study on cancer incidence in 3692 JIA patients (Barth S, Schlichtiger J, Hartmann B, Bisdorff B, Michels H, Radon K et al. Incidence of malignancies in patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a retrospective single-centre cohort study, submitted.) Nested within this retrospective cohort study, a case-control study to investigate whether type of treatment differed between JIA patients with and without cancer was also performed.

Methods

Study design and study population

A nested case-control study was carried out within of a retrospective single-centred hospital-based cohort study of 3698 JIA patients. In 2012, all current and former JIA patients that had been admitted to the German Centre for Pediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology (GCPAR) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany) between 1952 and 2010 ($n = 10,580$) were sent a self-administered standardized questionnaire. Overall, 6127 completed the questionnaire and gave written informed consent. As described elsewhere (Barth S, Schlichtiger J, Hartmann B, Bisdorff B, Michels H, Radon K et al. Incidence of malignancies in patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a retrospective single-centre cohort study, submitted), by means of reviewing the actual medical records at the GCPAR, JIA patients were identified and those suffering from other (rheumatic) diseases excluded (Barth S, Schlichtiger J, Hartmann B, Bisdorff B, Michels H, Radon K et al. Incidence of malignancies in patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a retrospective single-centre cohort study, submitted). Of the remaining participants, all patients reporting a malignant tumour were defined as cases (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD9) 140–208). Subsequently, a total of 48 cases were individually matched by sex, age (± 2 years) and date of first admission to the hospital (± 2 years) with up to four controls each. These were selected out of the JIA cohort from the same study. In the spring of 2013, all cases and 135 controls received a second self-administered standardized questionnaire including informed consent. The study was approved by the medical ethics committee of the University Hospital of Munich (LMU) in September 2011.

Questionnaire

A 19-item self-administered questionnaire (copy available from the authors upon request) was used to assess:

- Comorbidities (diabetes, HIV, mononucleosis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and trisomy 21),
- Drug intake (abatacept, adalimumab, anakinra, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil,

chloroquine, cyclosporine a, D-penicillamine, etanercept, hydroxychloroquine, infliximab, leflunomide, methotrexate, mycophenolatmofetil, natriumauriothiomalate, oral cortisone, rituximab, sulfasalazine, tocilizumab),

- If a specific type of drug was taken, duration of intake was requested (<6 month, 6 month–2 years, >2 years),
- Potential other risk factors of cancer (parental cancer history, computed tomography (CT), x-ray, scintigraphy, nuclear radiation therapy).

In addition, sociodemographic data (age, sex, education of participants and their parents) and disease-related information (disease duration and age at first symptoms of JIA) were taken from the cohort questionnaire that had previously been filled out (Barth S, Schlichtiger J, Hartmann B, Bisdorff B, Michels H, Radon K et al. Incidence of malignancies in patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a retrospective single-centre cohort study, submitted).

Data were double entered into SurveyMonkey (SurveyMonkey Inc., USA) and the entries checked with Synkronizer 10.0 (©2000–2014, XL Consulting GmbH, Switzerland).

Variable definitions

The assessed drugs were categorized into following active ingredient groups:

- disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) (*chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, D-penicillamine, natriumauriothiomalate, methotrexate, cyclosporine a, leflunomide, mycophenolatmofetil, azathioprine*)
- cytostatics (*cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil*)
- glucocorticoids (*oral cortisone*)
- immunosuppressives (*methotrexate, cyclosporine a, leflunomide, mycophenolatmofetil, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil*)
- biologic agents (*abatacept, anakinra, etanercept, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab, adalimumab*)

Statistical analyses

Absolute and relative frequencies were used to describe categorical data. For continuous data, measures of central tendency (median values) and measures of dispersion (1st–3rd quartile and range) were calculated. All analyses were stratified for cases and controls. Differences between cases and controls were identified using conditional (fixed-effect) logistic regression analyses; Odds Ratios (OR) and 95 %-Confidence Intervals (95 %-CI) were calculated. Due to the large numbers of missing values for drug intake, sensitivity analyses were performed. Multivariate analyses were repeated first including a

missing category for the drug variables, followed by the coding of the missing values as “drug was not taken”. These results were compared then to the main analyses. Furthermore, drug intake was validated by sending a second questionnaire with the same questions on drug intake out again about a year later. By calculating Cramer’s V values we tested reliability of answers. All statistical analyses were performed using Stata software version 12.1 (StataCorp LP, USA).

Results

The study population consisted of 48 cases and 135 controls with 37 cases and 125 controls responding (response 88.5 %). Median age of participants was 43 years (1st–3rd quartile: 33–50 years; range: 12–67 years), 82 % were female and most participants had a medium (41 %) or high (38 %) level of education (Table 1). The most common type of cancer was melanoma ($n = 9$), followed by breast cancer ($n = 7$) and cervical cancer ($n = 5$). All

other types of cancer occurred in three or fewer patients. Median duration from onset of JIA to diagnosis of the malignant tumour was 26 years (1st-3rd quartile: 21–34.5; range: 9–47 years).

On average, cases and controls had exposure to three different drugs during the course of their disease (range: 0–17). Intake of any antirheumatic medication during the last 12 months was reported by 49 % (data not shown). Treatments most frequently included: oral cortisone (66 %), methotrexate (51 %), natriumaurothiomalate (47 %) and chloroquine (42 %). Steroids were taken by 39 % for more than two years thus being the medication with the longest duration of intake. Duration of intake and type of drugs did not differ between cases and controls (see Additional file 1).

Considering the categorized active ingredient groups, treatment most commonly included DMARD (84 %). More than half of all patients reported intake of

Table 1 Socio-demographic characteristics and diseases-specific data of the study population

	n missing	Case n (%)	Control n (%)	OR (95 %-CI) ^a
Total		37 (22.8)	125 (77.2)	
Sex of the participant				
Male	0	7 (18.9)	23 (18.4)	n. a.
Female		30 (81.1)	102 (81.6)	
Age (years)				
0–17	0	2 (5.4)	8 (6.4)	n. a.
18–24		0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	
25–34		7 (18.9)	28 (22.4)	
35–44		12 (32.4)	39 (31.2)	
45–54		10 (27.0)	36 (28.8)	
55–76		6 (16.2)	14 (11.2)	
Education of participant ^b				
Low	3	8 (21.6)	25 (20.5)	1.00 (Ref.)
Medium		14 (37.8)	51 (41.8)	0.90 (0.33;2.46)
High		15 (40.5)	46 (37.7)	1.03 (0.35;3.06)
Parental education				
Low	35	12 (44.4)	39 (39.0)	1.00 (Ref.)
Medium		9 (33.3)	35 (35.0)	0.85 (0.28;2.53)
High		6 (22.2)	26 (26.0)	1.18 (0.33;4.16)
Disease duration since first symptoms (years)	65			
Median (1 st –3 rd quartile) (range)		41 (35;44) (3;57)	39 (34.5;45) (4;62)	0.97 (0.83;1.13)
Age at first symptoms (years)	65			
Median (1 st –3 rd quartile) (range)		8.5 (5;11) (1;13)	8 (4;11) (0;15)	1.03 (0.90;1.19)

OR odds ratio, CI confidence interval, n. a not available, DMARD disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, CT computed tomography

^aOR of conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression analysis with cancer (yes/no) as outcome. For each independent variable a separate model was created

^bLevel of education was summarized into high (higher school certificate, university, or college degree), medium (secondary school leaving certificate, or comparable degree) and low (lower secondary education level or no degree). For children, pupils and for those who did not indicate their level of education the highest parental level of education was used as a proxy

Table 2 Participants drug intake

	n missing (%)	Case n (%)	Control n (%)	OR (95 %-CI) ^a
Total		37 (22.8)	125 (77.2)	
DMARD				
No	10 (6.17)	5 (14.3)	20 (17.1)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		30 (85.7)	97 (82.9)	1.25 (0.42;3.76)
Immunosuppressives				
No	21 (12.96)	11 (35.5)	39 (35.5)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		20 (64.5)	71 (64.6)	0.97 (0.42;2.27)
Cytostatics				
No	42 (25.93)	27 (93.1)	86 (94.5)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		2 (6.9)	5 (5.5)	1.29 (0.23;7.18)
Glucocorticoids				
No	26 (16.05)	7 (21.2)	39 (37.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		26 (78.8)	64 (62.1)	2.31 (0.88;6.10)
Biologics				
No	38 (23.46)	25 (86.2)	74 (77.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		4 (13.8)	21 (22.1)	0.75 (0.24;2.38)

OR odds ratio, CI confidence interval, DMARD disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs

^aOR of conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression analysis with cancer (yes/no) as outcome. For each independent variable a separate model was created

glucocorticoids (66 %) and immunosuppressives (65 %). Biologics were ingested by 20 % of all respondents and cytostatics by 6 %. The intake of the investigated drugs was not statistically significant associated with being a case (Table 2) – not even in sensitivity analyses when the large number of missing values was considered (data not shown).

With regard to other potential factors, an association between exposure to scintigraphy and nuclear radiation therapy could be shown. However, in this context it has to be considered that both are used for the diagnosis of cancer. Therefore, with our data it is not possible to classify these as risk factors for cancer since application took place or simultaneously or after diagnosis of cancer. The remaining factors showed a tendency leading to (family history of cancer, x-ray) or having no impact on cancer (Table 3).

Validation of drug intake revealed moderate agreement with most of Cramer's V values between 0.52 and 0.74 except for two, which showed lower agreement (anakinra: 0.29 and mycophenolatmofetil: 0.30).

Discussion

This study compared drug intake and exposure to different already established cancer risk factors between JIA patients with and without malignancies. No statistical significant difference regarding drug intake was found. Only two of the already previously established risk factors were confirmed (exposure to scintigraphy, nuclear radiation therapy) in this study.

These results are in line with several previous studies that either found no increased incidence of malignancies in JIA patients [13–15] or an increased risk for cancer independent of TNF- α -treatment [1, 16–20]. However, some studies suggested that new therapeutics might be responsible for an increased risk of cancer in JIA patients [13, 21]. On the contrary it has been suggested that the use of biologic agents, among others, lowers the background risk of JIA for malignancies in reducing the inflammatory process of the disease [12].

Although, drug intake did not differ between cases and controls we found differences with regards to use of scintigraphy and nuclear radiation therapy, which was more often used in the cases. However, these results were to be expected since these methods are used for cancer diagnosis [22, 23].

For some variables we had a high number of missing values especially for date of first symptoms and drug intake; date of first symptoms was often unknown and is generally hard to define.

The reliability of information based on response to the questions on drug intake is a major limiting factor of this study, as it was too difficult for some of the patients to remember such detailed questions retrospectively. We used several methods in order to control for possible bias due to missing values. No statistically significant differences were found between patients with and without a missing value in one of the drug variables. Inclusion of missing values into multivariate analyses revealed no effect on having cancer, number of missing values did not differ between cases and controls.

Table 3 Risk factors for cancer

	n missing	Case n (%)	Control n (%)	OR (95 %-CI) ^a
Total		37 (22.8)	125 (77.2)	
Parental cancer history				
No	3	18 (51.4)	78 (62.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		17 (48.6)	46 (37.1)	1.94 (0.92;4.13)
Ever Smoked				
No	1	16 (44.4)	66 (52.8)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		20 (55.6)	59 (47.2)	1.49 (0.66;3.41)
Currently smoking				
No	0	29 (78.4)	94 (75.2)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		8 (21.6)	31 (24.8)	0.84 (0.32;2.15)
CT				
No	0	9 (24.3)	60 (48.0)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		28 (75.7)	65 (52.0)	0.95 (0.51;1.76)
Scintigraphy				
No	0	17 (45.9)	91 (72.8)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		20 (54.1)	34 (27.2)	2.01 (1.15;3.50)
X-ray (dentist)				
0–5	20	16 (47.1)	46 (42.6)	1.0 (Ref.)
6–10		10 (29.4)	29 (26.9)	0.96 (0.37;2.48)
11–20		5 (14.7)	19 (17.6)	0.81 (0.25;2.69)
>20		3 (8.8)	14 (13.0)	0.65 (0.16;2.71)
X-ray				
0–5	15	1 (2.8)	11 (9.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
6–10		2 (5.6)	14 (12.6)	1.85 (0.15;22.58)
11–20		10 (27.8)	29 (26.1)	4.27 (0.46;39.39)
>20		23 (63.9)	57 (51.4)	4.34 (0.52;36.01)
Nuclear radiation therapy				
No	1	26 (70.3)	114 (91.9)	1.00 (Ref.)
Yes		11 (29.7)	10 (8.1)	3.04 (1.25;7.36)

OR odds ratio, CI confidence interval, ^aOR of conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression analysis with cancer (yes/no) as outcome

On one hand the long recruitment period can be considered a strength of the study, but simultaneously it might also have led to a possible recall bias.

Especially, in the context of drug intake recall bias cannot be excluded as the results of drug validation showed only moderate agreement between first and second drug questionnaire. Therefore, the results should be interpreted with caution. Validation of drug intake with medical records was anticipated, but in the end was not possible as most patients are now being treated elsewhere. Therefore, obtaining all medical records of the patients was not feasible in the context of this study.

Lower the number of missing values was not successful not even by phoning participants up; most frequently they stated that they could not remember the name of

the drugs. Multiple medications were not considered as a potential risk factor for cancer in this study but might well be relevant for future studies. Another obvious restriction of the study was the small number of cases. However, with regards to the total number of cases in the first part of the study 90 % of all cases were reached for the follow-up. Nevertheless, to draw valid conclusions for the differences between cases and controls regarding drug treatment and other environmental cancer risk factors larger case-control-studies are needed. Therefore in this study it has to be considered that missing differences between cases and controls were due to missing power.

In conclusion, this study on cancer cases from a large single-centered population over a time period of more

than half a century, could not suggest an increased risk of malignancies in JIA patients associated with JIA therapy.

Additional file

Additional file 1: Intake and duration of rheumatic drugs. (DOCX 28 kb)

Abbreviations

95 %-CI: 95 %-Confidence Intervals; DMARDs: disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; FDA: Food and Drug Administration; GCPAR: German Centre for Pediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology; ICD9: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision; JIA: Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA); OR: Odds Ratios; TNF α -blockers: tumour-necrosis-factor-alpha blockers.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

SB co-ordinated the fieldwork, performed the statistical analysis and drafted the manuscript. JS supported the fieldwork, was involved in interpretation of the data and helped draft the manuscript. BB designed the study, co-ordinated some of the fieldwork, contributed to the interpretation of the data and helped draft the manuscript. BH participated in the fieldwork and interpretation of the data and helped to draft the manuscript. HM participated in the design of the study, interpretation of data and helped draft the manuscript. KR designed the study, supported fieldwork and interpretation of data and helped draft the manuscript. JPH designed the study, supported fieldwork and interpretation of data and helped draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Eidesstattliche Versicherung

Barth, Swaantje

Name, Vorname

Ich erkläre hiermit an Eides statt,
dass ich die vorliegende Dissertation mit dem Thema

Verlauf der Juvenilen Idiopathischen Arthritis im Erwachsenenalter

selbständig verfasst, mich außer der angegebenen keiner weiteren Hilfsmittel bedient und alle Erkenntnisse, die aus dem Schrifttum ganz oder annähernd übernommen sind, als solche kenntlich gemacht und nach ihrer Herkunft unter Bezeichnung der Fundstelle einzeln nachgewiesen habe.

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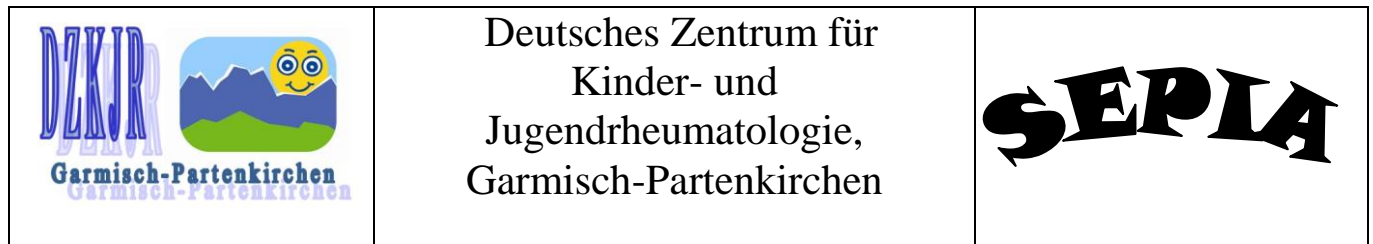
Weilerswist, 20.10.2017

Ort, Datum

Unterschrift

Anhang

1. Anschreiben an die Studienteilnehmer der Sepia Studie



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An Familie

„SEPIA“ Studie

Sehr geehrte Eltern,

Sie waren mit Ihrem Kind _____ in unserer Kinderrheumaklinik in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Behandlung.

Wir von der Kinderrheumaklinik in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Institut für Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin des Klinikums der Universität München (LMU) möchten gerne wissen, was aus Ihrem Kind geworden ist. Deshalb möchten wir Sie heute herzlich dazu einladen, uns bei der Sepia-Studie, der Garmisch-Partenkirchner Fall-Kontroll-Studie zu malignen Erkrankungen bei Patienten mit juveniler idiopathischer Arthritis, zur Langzeitprognose von Kinderrheuma, zu unterstützen.

Aus diesem Grund möchten wir einige Fragen zum Alltag, zu Folgeerkrankungen und zu weiteren relevanten Gebieten Ihres Kindes stellen. Den entsprechenden Fragebogen finden Sie anbei. Zusätzlich zum Ausfüllen des Fragebogens ist es sehr wichtig, dass Sie auch die Einverständniserklärung ausfüllen und unterschreiben, da wir Ihre Daten ansonsten nicht verwenden dürfen.

Bitte senden Sie den Fragebogen zusammen mit der Einverständniserklärung in dem beigelegten Rückumschlag an uns zurück. Das Porto wird selbstverständlich von uns übernommen.

Wir versichern Ihnen, dass Ihre Daten sowie die Ihres Kindes absolut vertraulich behandelt und nur zu Forschungszwecken verwendet werden. Alle Ihre in den Fragebögen erhobenen Angaben werden absolut vertraulich behandelt und ohne Personenbezug (pseudonymisiert) für wissenschaftliche Auswertungen verwendet. Die Fragebogendaten erhalten hierfür eine zufällige Nummer. Der Code zur Zuordnung Ihrer Adressdaten mit den Fragebogendaten wird am Institut für Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin des Klinikums der LMU München (Prof. Dr. Katja Radon) aufbewahrt. So sind alle Daten vor Missbrauch geschützt. Zudem werden alle Mitarbeiter der Studie beim Umgang mit Ihren Daten die gesetzlichen Datenschutzbestimmungen korrekt einhalten.

Die Teilnahme an der Studie ist freiwillig. Sie können Ihre Teilnahme jederzeit und ohne Angabe von Gründen unter der oben angegebenen Adresse widerrufen. Ihre Daten werden dann gelöscht.

Für Fragen steht Ihnen Frau Dr. Betty Bisdorff gerne zur Verfügung (Telefon: 089-5160-2372).

Herzlichen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

✓
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Studienleiterin

Dr. med. Hartmut Michels
ehem. Chefarzt des DZKJR

Prof. Dr. med. Johannes-Peter Haas
Ärztlicher Direktor des DZK

2. Fragebogen Studienphase A

Fragebogen



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Lieber Teilnehmer, liebe Teilnehmerin,

wir möchten Sie herzlich bitten, diesen Fragebogen auszufüllen. Das Ausfüllen des Fragebogens beansprucht etwa 10 Minuten. Den ausgefüllten Fragebogen senden Sie bitte im beigefügten Rückkuvert **innerhalb der nächsten 7 Tage** an uns zurück.

Hier noch einige **Informationen zum Ausfüllen** des Fragebogens:

Zur Beantwortung der Fragen markieren Sie Ihre Antwort in dem Antwortkästchen. Dazu kreuzen Sie bitte Zutreffendes an.

BEISPIEL:

Korrigieren Sie bitte falsch markierte Kästchen durch komplettes Ausfüllen:

BEISPIEL:

Bei offenen Fragen schreiben Sie bitte deutlich mit Blockbuchstaben in die vorgegebene Zeile. Wenn eine Zahlenangabe verlangt wird, schreiben Sie bitte die Zahl deutlich in die vorgegebenen Felder.

BEISPIEL: **16** Jahre

Gehen Sie bitte der Reihe nach vor, Frage für Frage. Überspringen Sie eine oder mehrere Fragen nur dann, wenn im Text ausdrücklich darauf hingewiesen wird.

BEISPIEL: nein 0 **Bitte weiter mit →Frage XY.**

ja 1

Wenn Sie "ja" ankreuzen, gehen Sie einfach zur nächsten Frage weiter. Wenn Sie "nein" ankreuzen, gehen sie zu der Frage weiter, auf die der Pfeil weist!

Bitte überprüfen Sie Ihre Angaben nach Beantwortung der Fragen noch einmal auf Vollständigkeit.

Bitte vergessen Sie nicht, die Rückseite auszufüllen! Ohne diese Einverständniserklärung dürfen wir Ihren Fragebogen nicht auswerten!

Sollten Sie noch Fragen haben, so stehen wir Ihnen jederzeit gerne zur Verfügung.

Herzlichen Dank!

Dr. Betty Bisdorff, MSc
Studienleiterin

Dr. med. Hartmut Michels
ehem. Chefarzt des DZKJR

Prof. Dr. med. Johannes-Peter Haas
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Einverständniserklärung



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- Ich bin damit einverstanden, an der Fragebogenaktion der *Sepia* Studie teilzunehmen.
- Ich möchte nicht an der Fragebogenaktion teilnehmen.

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Alle Ihre Angaben werden absolut vertraulich behandelt und ohne Personenbezug (pseudo-anonymisiert) für wissenschaftliche Auswertungen verwendet. Die Untersuchungsdaten erhalten hierfür eine zufällige Nummer. Der Code zur Zuordnung Ihrer **Adressdaten** wird am Institut für Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin des Klinikums der LMU München (Prof. Dr. Katja Radon) aufbewahrt. So sind alle Daten vor Missbrauch geschützt. Zudem werden alle Mitarbeiter der Studie beim Umgang mit Ihren Daten die gesetzlichen Datenschutzbestimmungen korrekt einhalten. Sie können jederzeit Auskunft über die von Ihnen gespeicherten Daten oder die Löschung derselben bei Prof. Dr. Katja Radon anordnen.

Ich habe das Informationsmaterial und die Erklärungen zum Datenschutz gelesen. Mir wurde erklärt, dass meine Daten nur ohne Personenbezug (pseudo-anonymisiert) und nur für wissenschaftliche Zwecke ausgewertet werden. Ich bin damit einverstanden, dass meine **Adressdaten** am Institut für Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin des Klinikums der LMU München gespeichert werden. Ich bin mit der Speicherung und Verarbeitung meiner Daten einverstanden. **Ich wurde darauf hingewiesen, dass die Teilnahme an dieser Studie freiwillig ist.** Das Einverständnis kann ich jederzeit und ohne Angabe von Gründen unter der oben angegebenen Adresse widerrufen.

Für weitere Informationen würden wir unter Umständen gerne noch einmal auf Sie zukommen. Dazu benötigen wir Ihren Namen, Ihre Anschrift und wenn möglich Ihre Telefonnummer, um Sie gegebenenfalls erreichen zu können.

Für weitere Informationen stehe ich zur Verfügung

- Nein
- Ja (bitte tragen Sie Ihre Adresse unten ein)

Name: _____ Telefon: _____

Strasse: _____ PLZ Wohnort: _____

Datum /Unterschrift der/s Studienteilnehmerin/s

Bei Minderjährigen (d.h. Studienteilnehmern unter 18 Jahren) ist zusätzlich die Unterschrift eines Elternteils bzw. eines Sorge- oder Erziehungsberechtigten, gesetzlichen Vertreters notwendig!

Datum und Unterschrift eines Erziehungsberechtigten

ALLGEMEINES

1 Füllen Sie diesen Fragebogen...?

- Für sich selbst aus 0
- Für jemanden aus, der schon verstorben ist 1
- Für jemanden aus, der noch nicht volljährig ist 2
- Für jemanden aus, der aus gesundheitlichen Gründen dazu nicht in der Lage ist 3

Bitte in allen 4 Fällen daran denken, die Einverständniserklärung auf der ersten Seite zu unterschreiben!

Die nachfolgenden Fragen beziehen sich auf die im Anschreiben angesprochene Person.

2 Wann wurden Sie geboren?

Tag Monat Jahr

3 Sind Sie männlich oder weiblich?

- Männlich..... 0
- Weiblich 1

IHRE GESUNDHEIT

4 Beweglichkeit/Mobilität

- Ich habe keine Probleme herumzugehen..... 0
- Ich habe einige Probleme herumzugehen..... 1
- Ich bin ans Bett gebunden 2

5 Für sich selbst sorgen

- Ich habe keine Probleme, für mich selbst zu sorgen 0
- Ich habe einige Probleme, mich selbst zu waschen oder mich anzuziehen 1
- Ich bin nicht in der Lage, mich selbst zu waschen oder anzuziehen 2

6 Allgemeine Tätigkeiten (z.B. Arbeit, Studium, Hausarbeit, Familien- oder Freizeitaktivitäten)

Ich habe keine Probleme, meinen alltäglichen Tätigkeiten nachzugehen..... 0

Ich habe einige Probleme, meinen alltäglichen Tätigkeiten nachzugehen.... 1

Ich bin nicht in der Lage, meinen alltäglichen Tätigkeiten nachzugehen..... 2

7 Schmerzen/Körperliche Beschwerden

Ich habe keine Schmerzen oder Beschwerden 0

Ich habe mäßige Schmerzen oder Beschwerden 1

Ich habe extreme Schmerzen oder Beschwerden 2

8 Angst/Niedergeschlagenheit

Ich bin nicht ängstlich oder deprimiert 0

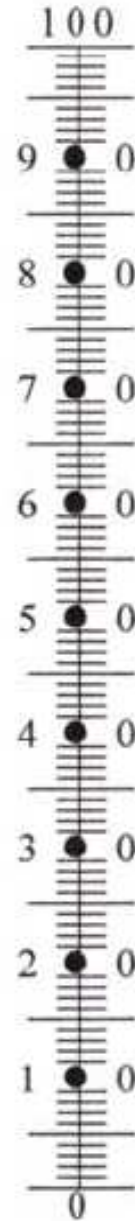
Ich bin mäßig ängstlich oder deprimiert 1

Ich bin extrem ängstlich oder deprimiert 2

- 9 Um Sie bei der Einschätzung, wie gut oder wie schlecht Ihr Gesundheitszustand ist, zu unterstützen, haben wir eine Skala gezeichnet, ähnlich einem Thermometer. Der best denkbare Gesundheitszustand ist mit einer „100“ gekennzeichnet, der schlechteste mit „0“. Wir möchten Sie nun bitten, auf dieser Skala zu kennzeichnen, wie gut oder schlecht Ihrer Ansicht nach Ihr persönlicher Gesundheitszustand heute ist. Bitte **verbinden** Sie dazu den **untenstehenden Kasten** „Ihr heutiger Gesundheitszustand“ mit dem Punkt auf der Skala, der Ihren heutigen Gesundheitszustand am besten wiedergibt.

**Best-
denkbarer
Gesundheitszustand**

**Ihr heutiger
Gesundheitszustand**



**Schlechtest
denkbarer
Gesundheitszustand**

3. Fragebogen Studienphase B

Fragebogen

PHASE B



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Hier noch einige **Informationen zum Ausfüllen** des Fragebogens:

Zur Beantwortung der Fragen markieren Sie Ihre Antwort in dem Antwortkästchen. Dazu kreuzen Sie bitte Zutreffendes an.

BEISPIEL:

Korrigieren Sie bitte falsch markierte Kästchen durch komplettes Ausfüllen:

BEISPIEL:

Bei offenen Fragen schreiben Sie bitte deutlich mit Blockbuchstaben in die vorgegebene Zeile. Wenn eine Zahlenangabe verlangt wird, schreiben Sie bitte die Zahl deutlich in die vorgegebenen Felder.

BEISPIEL: Jahre

Gehen Sie bitte der Reihe nach vor, Frage für Frage. Überspringen Sie eine oder mehrere Fragen nur dann, wenn im Text ausdrücklich darauf hingewiesen wird.

BEISPIEL: nein 0 **Bitte weiter mit →Frage XY.**

ja 1

Wenn Sie "ja" ankreuzen, gehen Sie einfach zur nächsten Frage weiter. Wenn Sie "nein" ankreuzen, gehen sie zu der Frage weiter, auf die der Pfeil weist!

Bitte überprüfen Sie Ihre Angaben nach Beantwortung der Fragen noch einmal auf Vollständigkeit.

Bitte vergessen Sie nicht, die Rückseite auszufüllen! Ohne diese Einverständniserklärung dürfen wir Ihren Fragebogen nicht auswerten!

Sollten Sie noch Fragen haben, so stehen wir Ihnen jederzeit gerne zur Verfügung.

Herzlichen Dank!

Dr. Betty Bisdorff, MSc
Studienleiterin

Dr. med. Hartmut Michels
ehem. Chefarzt des DZKJR

Prof. Dr. med. Johannes-Peter Haas
Ärztlicher Direktor des DZKJR

Einverständniserklärung**PHASE B**

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Bitte kreuzen Sie an und vergessen Sie nicht zu unterschreiben.

- Ich bin damit einverstanden, an der Fragebogenaktion der *Sepia* Studie teilzunehmen.
- Ich möchte nicht an der Fragebogenaktion teilnehmen.

Datenschutzerklärung

Alle Ihre Angaben werden absolut vertraulich behandelt und ohne Personenbezug (pseudo-anonymisiert) für wissenschaftliche Auswertungen verwendet. Die Untersuchungsdaten erhalten hierfür eine zufällige Nummer. Der Code zur Zuordnung Ihrer **Adressdaten** wird am Institut für Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin des Klinikums der LMU München (Prof. Dr. Katja Radon) aufbewahrt. So sind alle Daten vor Missbrauch geschützt. Zudem werden alle Mitarbeiter der Studie beim Umgang mit Ihren Daten die gesetzlichen Datenschutzbestimmungen korrekt einhalten. Sie können jederzeit Auskunft über die von Ihnen gespeicherten Daten oder die Löschung derselben bei Prof. Dr. Katja Radon anordnen.

Ich habe das Informationsmaterial und die Erklärungen zum Datenschutz gelesen. Mir wurde erklärt, dass meine Daten nur ohne Personenbezug (pseudo-anonymisiert) und nur für wissenschaftliche Zwecke ausgewertet werden. Ich bin damit einverstanden, dass meine **Adressdaten** am Institut für Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin des Klinikums der LMU München gespeichert werden. Ich bin mit der Speicherung und Verarbeitung meiner Daten einverstanden. **Ich wurde darauf hingewiesen, dass die Teilnahme an dieser Studie freiwillig ist.** Das Einverständnis kann ich jederzeit und ohne Angabe von Gründen unter der oben angegebenen Adresse widerrufen.

Für weitere Informationen würden wir unter Umständen gerne noch einmal auf Sie zukommen. Dazu benötigen wir Ihren Namen, Ihre Anschrift und wenn möglich Ihre Telefonnummer, um Sie gegebenenfalls erreichen zu können.

Für weitere Informationen stehe ich zur Verfügung

- Nein
- Ja (bitte tragen Sie Ihre Adresse unten ein)

Name: _____ Telefon: _____

Strasse: _____ PLZ Wohnort: _____

Email: _____

 Datum /Unterschrift der/s Studienteilnehmerin/s

Bei Minderjährigen (d.h. Studienteilnehmern unter 18 Jahren) ist zusätzlich die Unterschrift eines Elternteils bzw. eines Sorge- oder Erziehungsberechtigten, gesetzlichen Vertreters notwendig!

 Datum und Unterschrift eines Erziehungsberechtigten

1 Wann wurden Sie geboren?

□□□ □□□ □□□□□
Tag Monat Jahr

2 In welchem Land wurden Sie geboren?

Deutschland.....

In einem anderen Land (bitte eintragen):

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

3 Hat Ihnen jemals ein Arzt gesagt, dass Sie eine der folgenden Krankheiten oder Beschwerden haben?

	Nein	Ja	Weiß nicht
Diabetes mellitus Typ 1.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diabetes mellitus Typ 2.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIV.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mononukleose (Pfeiffer'sches Drüsenfieber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morbus Crohn/Colitis ulcerosa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple Sklerose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hashimoto-Thyreoiditis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trisomie 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 Wann wurde bei Ihnen von einem Arzt kindliches Rheuma (juvenile idiopathische Arthritis, juvenile chronische Polyarthritits, Morbus Still, etc.) festgestellt?

Im Jahr: □□□□

5 Haben Sie wegen Ihres noch aktiven kindlichen Rheumas momentan noch aktiv entzündete Gelenke?

nein..... 0
ja..... 1

↳ Wenn ja wie viele: □□□□

9 Haben Sie in den letzten 12 Monaten Medikamente gegen Rheuma eingenommen?

nein 0
 ja 1

10 Haben Sie jemals im Laufe Ihres Lebens folgende Medikamente eingenommen?

	Nie	Weniger als 6 Monate	6 Monate bis 2 Jahre	Mehr als 2 Jahre	Ersteinnahme Monat/Jahr
Methotrexat (z.B. Lantarel®, Metex®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Chloroquin (Resochin®, Weimer®quin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Hydroxychloroquin (Quensyl®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sulfasalazin (z.B. Azulfidine®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
D-Penicillamin (Metalcaptase®, Trovol®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Natriumaurothiomalat (Gold, Tauredon®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cyclosporin A (z.B. Sandimmun®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cyclophosphamid (Endoxan®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Leflunomid (z.B. Arava®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mycophenolatmofetil (z.B. CellCept®, Myfortic®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Chlorambucil (Leukeran®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Azathioprin (z.B. Imurek®, Azamedac®, Azathioprin-Ratiopharm®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Orale Cortison-Präparate (z.B. Prednisolon, DecortinH®, Prednihexal®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Abatacept (Orencia®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Anakinra (Kineret®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Etanercept (Enbrel®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Infliximab (Remicade®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Rituximab (MabThera®, Rituxan®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tocilizumab (Actemra®, RoActemra®)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

