

and seven gout male patients were found in 1996. The prevalence of hyperuricemia was 19.5% (52 cases/266, SUA > 7 mg/dl) in men, 12.6% (71 cases/564, SUA > 6 mg/dl) in women in 2001. The prevalence of gout in 2037 dwellers in Huangpu District was 0.77% in men and 0.34% in both sexes in 1996.

**Conclusions:** The mean SUA level in each age group in 2001 was higher than that of in 1996 (see table). The prevalence of hyperuricemia was increased rapidly (Male: 15.1% in 1996 to 19.5% in 2001; Female: 8.7% in 1996 to 12.6% in 2001 P < 0.05). Azotemia ( $\geq 23$  vs. <23 mg/dl) hypertriglyceridemia ( $\geq 200$  vs. <150 mg/dl, 150–200 vs. <150 mg/dl) were the associated risk factors by multiple logistic regression analyzing the independent effect of each variable on hyperuricemia.

Table Comparison of SUA levels in different age group over 5 years.

Year/Age	40–49	50–59	60+
Male 2001	5.85 ± 1.02 (56)**	6.04 ± 1.14 (74)*	6.20 ± 1.32 (136)
1996	5.38 ± 1.06 (100)	5.53 ± 1.30 (50)	5.90 ± 1.45 (188)
Female 2001	4.19 ± 0.88 (164)	4.72 ± 1.07 (146)	5.14 ± 1.17 (254)**
1996	4.13 ± 0.94 (118)	4.49 ± 1.05 (84)	4.74 ± 1.07 (267)

\*\*P < 0.01; \*P < 0.05

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### The prevalence of osteoarthritis in rural Egypt: a WHO-ILAR-COPCORD Study

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**Objective:** Osteoarthritis (OA) is the commonest form of arthritis affecting every population and ethnic group. The prevalence of OA and its types however varies in different studies according to the population studied, the denominator age of the population and the criteria used to define OA, whether clinical or radiological or both. This study was carried out to investigate the prevalence of OA and its types in a rural area of Egypt as part of a large study examining the prevalence of rheumatic diseases in Egypt.

**Methods:** The study was conducted in Makosa village of Al-Minia governorate in Southern Egypt in 4 phases. Of the whole adult population (15 years and above) comprising 5208 individuals, 88 (1.7%) declined to participate in the study and 5120 subjects (98.7%, 2562 female and 2558 male) were screened by a preliminary WHO-ILAR-COPCORD questionnaire inquiring about joint and bone pain, swelling, stiffness or tenderness in the last 7 days. Those who answered positively were administered a more detailed questionnaire and invited for examination and laboratory and radiological investigations as required. A rheumatologist administered the 2 questionnaires face-to-face and car-

ried out examinations to ensure reliability and validity of data collection. Consequently, OA cases were diagnosed according to validated criteria (1986 clinical ACR criteria for OA of the knee, 1986 ACR criteria for OA of the hand and 1991 ACR criteria for OA of the hip).

**Results:** OA was the commonest rheumatic disease in the population, with OA cases constituting more than half of patients with rheumatic diseases, whether female (53.2%), male (50.8%) or total (52.4%). Osteoarthritis was diagnosed in 434 individuals, with a prevalence of 8.5% in the total adult population (95% CI: 7.7–9.1%). The prevalence of OA was significantly higher in females (10.9%) than males (6.1%) (p < 0.001). Local OA was the commonest type of OA diagnosed (6.3%), while the prevalence of primary generalized OA (nodal and non-nodal) was 1.5%, and secondary OA was found in 0.6% of the population. Regardless of type, the knee was afflicted in the majority of cases, with knee OA diagnosed in 8.1% of the population, while the prevalence of hand OA was 1.5%. Hip OA was rare, being diagnosed in only 3 cases (0.06%).

**Conclusion:** OA is the commonest rheumatic disease in Egypt, with a prevalence of 8.5%. The disease is more common in females than males and predominantly affects the knees, while hip OA is extremely rare.

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### The Survey for the Pattern of Prescription and Problems in the Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Korea

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**Background:** In Korea, about 140 certified rheumatologists are working in university hospitals, general hospitals, and private clinics. Their pattern of prescription for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and their problems in managing RA patients were not evaluated systematically, yet.

**Objectives:** We investigated how Korean rheumatologists treat the patients with RA and which drugs are used for the patients with RA. Thus we evaluated the pattern of prescription and problems in the management of RA in Korea.

**Methods:** We sent out a questionnaire to all certified rheumatologists in Korea at the time of Korean bone and joint week 2005 (2–8 October 2005). Among them, 70 rheumatologists replied to the questionnaire. The contents of the questionnaire included the doctor's affiliation, frequently used antirheumatic drugs, the frequency of prescribed biologic agents, problems for used biologic agents, frequently used gastroprotective drugs for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and the expectation for the cure of RA.

**Results:** 51% of Korean rheumatologists were working in university hospital, 34% in general hospital, and 15% in private clinics. The most frequently used antirheumatic drug was methotrexate (MTX). 99% of Korean rheumatologists used MTX as the first line antirheumatic drug for RA. Hydroxychloroquine (94%), sulfasalazine (79%), bucillamine