ECONOMIC BURDEN AND LOSS IN QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS
Lovas K1, Szende A2, Hodinka L1, Bálint G1, Héjj G1
1Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary; 2MEDTAP International, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 3National Institute of Rheumatology and Physiotherapy, Budapest, Hungary

OBJECTIVES: To measure quality of life and health-care utilization related to osteoarthritis and to understand the relationship among different parameters.

METHODS: 245 patients with osteoarthritis (176 female) of mean age 64 years were recruited within a musculoskeletal study in both primary care and rheumatology outpatient settings in Hungary in 1999 and 2000. Patients filled in both the generic EQ-5D quality-of-life questionnaire and the disease-specific WOMAC questionnaire and reported resource utilization. Mean quality-of-life and health-care-utilization values were reported and correlation coefficients between different measurements were analyzed.

RESULTS: Average EQ-5D index, EQ-5Dvases, WOMAC (pain (A), stiffness (B), physical function (C)) scores were 0.42, 49.18, 9.28, 3.87, 36.32 respectively. Average annual number of physiotherapy and spa treatment sessions were 33.32 and 9.88, respectively. Average number of GP and specialist visits were 31.4 and 8.54 annually. Patients spent a mean of nine days in hospital and they spent 12.5 days in bed due to osteoarthritis. Active patients spent a mean of 6.7 days on sick leave. Statistically significant correlation was observed between the following: EQ-5D index and EQ-5Dvases; EQ-5D index and WOMAC C; EQ-5Dvases and WOMAC C; days in bed and EQ-5D index; days in bed and EQ-5Dvases; days in bed and WOMAC C. Corresponding correlation coefficients were: 0.35; −0.59; −0.33; −0.35; −0.17; 0.24; respectively (p < .01).

CONCLUSIONS: Results showed that osteoarthritis leads to substantial loss in quality of life, important direct medical costs, and substantial productivity loss among active patients.

PA02

THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF CELECOXIB COMPARED TO DICLOFENAC IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN POLAND
Orlew ska E
Medical University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

OBJECTIVES: To estimate the cost-effectiveness of celecoxib 0.2 g bid vs. diclofenac 75 mg bid in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients in Poland and to identify whether and to what extent celecoxib represents good use of health-service resources.

METHODS: A decision analytic model in the Polish