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Trajectories of Glucocorticoid-Therapy After Initiation in Early (or Methotrexate-Naive) Rheumatoid Arthritis: Protocol for a Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Meta-Regression of Observational Cohort Studies

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Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

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Objective

1   To assess real-world trajectories of glucocorticoid-therapy initiated as part of early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treatment.

Eligibility

2   Observational cohort studies (CS) published between Jan 01, 2005 and now. Studies must enroll early (or methotrexate-naive) RA patients and report on those starting/taking systemic glucocorticoids (GCs) at baseline and describe at least one of our outcomes at two time points minimum.

Data Source

3   MEDLINE (via PubMed).

Search Strings

4   Search strings were developed utilizing the PICOS mnemonic:

Population: early (or methotrexate-naïve) RA - **I**ntervention: systemic GCs - **C**omparator: any - **O**utcome: any - **S**tudy design: observational cohort study
(Rheumatoid[Title] OR Arthritis, Rheumatoid[MeSh:NoExp])
AND (early[title/abstract] OR naïve[title/abstract])
AND (Cortison*[title/abstract] OR Predniso*[title/abstract] OR Cortico*[title/abstract] OR Glucocort*[title/abstract] OR Steroid*[title/abstract] OR Glucocorticoids[MeSh:NoExp])
AND (Cohort[Title/Abstract] OR Longitudinal[Title/Abstract] OR Prospective[Title/Abstract] OR Registry[Title/Abstract] OR Longitudinal Studies[Mesh:NoExp] OR Cohort Studies[Mesh:NoExp] OR Registries[Mesh:NoExp])
AND 2005/01/01:2021/01/01[dp]
NOT (random*[Title] OR randomized controlled trial[pt])
NOT (review[Title] or review[pt])

Outcomes

5   Mean/median dose of prednisone equivalent, proportion of patients who could discontinue GCs, proportion of patients who could reduce GCs (all: at baseline, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 24 months).

Data Synthesis

6   Meta-analysis will be conducted to pool results, including meta-regression (mixed effects) to assess change over time for each outcome.