



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Relationship of pain and fatigue with health-related quality of life and work in patients with psoriatic arthritis on TNFi: results of a multi-national real-world study

P G Conaghan,¹ Rieke Alten ,² Atul Deodhar,³ Emma Sullivan ,^{4,5} Stuart Blackburn,⁵ Haijun Tian,⁶ Kunal Gandhi,⁶ Steffen M Jugl,⁷ Vibeke Strand^{8,9}

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For numbered affiliations see end of article.

Correspondence to

Emma Sullivan;
emma.sullivan@adelphivalues.com

ABSTRACT

Background/Objective The incidence of pain and/or fatigue in people with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is associated with reduced health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and the ability to work, despite modern advanced therapeutic approaches. This real-world, international study examined these relationships in patients with PsA treated with tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi).

Methods Data from 13 countries were analysed. Patients with PsA and their physicians completed questionnaires capturing demographics, current therapy, current disease status, HRQoL and work status via Medical Outcomes Study 36-Item Short-Form version 2 (SF-36v2), 3-level 5-dimension EuroQoL questionnaire, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index, and Work Productivity and Activity Impairment (WPAI) questionnaire.

Results 640 patients with PsA were included who had been receiving TNFi for ≥3 months and had completed SF-36v2 bodily pain and vitality domains. Of these, 33.1%, 29.2% and 37.7% of patients reported no, moderate and severe pain, respectively, and 31.9%, 22.5% and 45.6% of patients reported low, moderate and severe fatigue, respectively. Scores across HRQoL variables and WPAI were significantly different across pain and fatigue cohorts (all $p < 0.0001$), with HRQoL and WPAI measures considerably worse in patients with moderate to severe pain or fatigue than those with low pain or fatigue.

Conclusions Despite treatment with biologic agents such as TNFi, data from this global study demonstrated that substantial pain and/or fatigue persist in patients with PsA and that these are significantly associated with reduced HRQoL, physical function and work productivity. These findings suggest that there is an unmet need for additional PsA therapies.

INTRODUCTION

Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory disease with diverse effects on both skin and joints, varied course and long-term impact on patients' lives.^{1–4} The prevalence

Key messages

What is already known about this subject?

- Pain and/or fatigue are significant burdens for people with psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

What does this study add?

- This study is the first global real-world analysis of the relationship between pain and/or fatigue with health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and work productivity in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) treated with tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi).
- Our results show that greater severity of pain and/or fatigue is associated with decreased HRQoL, as well as reduced physical functioning, ability to participate in daily activities and work productivity.
- Our study confirms previous reports that patients with PsA commonly report pain despite being treated with TNFi.

How might this impact on clinical practice?

- Improved disease management with modern advanced therapies may address the significant burden of pain and/or fatigue associated with reduced HRQoL in people with PsA.

of PsA varies geographically, from 0.001% adults in Japan, 0.16% in the USA, up to 0.42% in Italy, and can occur in up to 40% of patients with psoriasis.^{1–4}

Patients with PsA experience local and systemic symptoms, erosive joint disease, impaired functioning and higher mortality.¹ Pain and fatigue, common symptoms in patients with PsA, are often severe and represent an important element in the patient concept of PsA disease activity.^{5–8} Pain in PsA may be persistent, and remains present even in patients who achieve minimal disease activity and who are on pharmacotherapy.^{8–10} People

with PsA report 'role limitation' and body pain, which can cause severe disability and seriously impact quality of life.¹¹ Severe fatigue has been described as overwhelming and unlike normal tiredness, permeating every aspect of life and difficult to self-manage with little outside support.¹² It is difficult to assess how widespread severe fatigue is among patients with PsA as multiple instruments have been used to assess fatigue in both research and clinical practice. However, estimates are that 57% of patients with PsA suffer from severe fatigue.⁵ There is a scarcity of information of the impact of fatigue on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and ability to work in this patient population.^{5 6}

It has been shown that the proinflammatory cytokines tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF α), interleukin 23 (IL-23), interleukin 17 (IL-17) and interleukin 6 (IL-6) are elevated in PsA^{13–17}; therefore, current treatments available are targeted to these pathways. Therapy for PsA involves conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), targeted synthetic DMARDs such as apremilast and tofacitinib, and biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs). TNF inhibitors (TNFi) have historically been the most widely used bDMARDs.^{18 19}

The purpose of this international study was to evaluate the frequency and severity of pain and fatigue in patients with PsA treated with TNFi in a real-world setting and explore the relationship of pain and fatigue severity with HRQoL and ability to work.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data source

This study was a retrospective analysis using data from the Adelphi PsA Disease Specific Program (DSP) conducted in 13 countries between 2015 and 2016 in the USA and Mexico (N America), Europe (EU5; covering France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK), Asia-Pacific (APAC; covering Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia), and Turkey and Middle East (T&ME; covering Turkey and the United Arab Emirates).²⁰ DSPs are large, multinational surveys designed to identify current disease management and patient- and physician-reported disease impact. They are point-in-time surveys conducted in real-world clinical practice.

Physicians included in the survey were instructed to complete a prespecified form for the next one to eight (variable by country) consecutive patients with active PsA who visited for diagnosis or routine care. Physician-reported forms included detailed questions querying patient demographics, clinical assessments, medication use and treatment history. Completion of the physician-reported form was undertaken through consultation of existing patient clinical records, as well as the judgement and diagnostic skills of the respondent physician, which is entirely consistent with decisions made in routine clinical practice.

Each patient for whom a physician-reported form was completed was invited to complete a voluntary patient-

reported form, providing informed consent to participate. Patient-reported forms included the 3-level 5-dimension EuroQoL questionnaire (EQ-5D-3L),²¹ Medical Outcomes Study 36-Item Short-Form health survey version 2 (SF-36v2),²² and Work Productivity and Activity Impairment (WPAI) general health questionnaire.²³ Patients completed their forms independently from physicians and returned them in sealed envelopes to ensure confidentiality.

The DSP collected retrospective data using a non-interventional market research approach; no identifiable protected health information was collected. The DSP was conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation at the time of data collection, including the US Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 1996²⁴ and Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act legislation.²⁵ As this market research was run in accordance with the European Pharmaceutical Marketing Research Association guidelines, it did not require ethics committee approvals.²⁶

Participating physicians and patients

Rheumatologists and dermatologists were eligible to participate in the study if they had worked ≥ 3 years as a physician, had qualified between 1979 and 2012, and were responsible for treatment decisions and management of patients with PsA.

Patients were eligible for inclusion in the study if they were ≥ 18 years old with a physician-confirmed diagnosis of PsA and were not currently enrolled in a clinical trial. Patients were eligible for inclusion in the analysis if they were receiving TNFi for ≥ 3 months and completed the SF-36v2 health survey. There were no exclusion criteria in the study.

Patient characteristics were provided by physicians, covering demographics, comorbidities including fibromyalgia, disease status including duration of disease, presence of inflammation, presence of enthesitis and treatment details including type of immunomodulatory therapy and use of prescribed and non-prescribed pain medication. Patient-reported happiness was assessed using SF-36v2 question 9 'How much of the time during the past week have you been happy?' with possible responses: all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, none of the time.

Study variables

The SF-36v2 includes eight domains; bodily pain (BP) domain scores were stratified into tertiles to define patient cohorts with low, moderate or severe pain. The SF-36v2 vitality (VT) domain was used as an inverse construct for fatigue, and scores were stratified into tertiles to define patient cohorts with high vitality (low fatigue), moderate vitality (moderate fatigue) and low vitality (severe fatigue), balancing patient numbers between the three groups as far as possible while still satisfying the clinical definitions.²⁷ The EQ-5D-3L questionnaire, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), SF-36v2 domains and WPAI questionnaire

were also used to assess patient outcomes.^{23 28} SF-36v2 age and gender normative data were generated based on US norms published in SF-36v2 manuals and updates.²⁷

Statistical analyses

Descriptive analyses were conducted at global and regional levels (N America, EU5, APAC and T&ME). Categorical variables were described by counts and proportion of respondents, and continuous numerical variables were described by their means and SD.

Statistical differences across patient-reported outcomes by tertiles of pain and fatigue were assessed separately using Kruskal-Wallis tests for continuous or ordinal data, and χ^2 tests for categorical data. A significance level of 95% was used throughout. All analyses were conducted in Stata Statistical Software: Release 15 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

RESULTS

Patients and physicians

Of 3782 patients with PsA who participated in the study, 1475 (39%) patients had been receiving TNFi for at least 3 months at the time of data collection. Of those, 640 (43.4%) patients (N America, n=176; EU5, n=329; APAC, n=97; T&ME, n=38) who completed both the SF-36v2 BP and VT domains were included in this analysis. Patient demographics and baseline characteristics for all patients by inclusion status and geographical region can be found in online supplementary table 1. The included patients were recruited by 320 physicians from 13 countries (N America, n=91; EU5, n=164; APAC, n=47; T&ME, n=18). Of 640 patients included in the analysis, 625 (97.7%) patients completed the EQ-5D-3L questionnaire and 623 (97.3%) patients completed the WPAI questionnaire, of whom 458 (84.0%) were employed at the time of questionnaire completion.

Levels of pain and fatigue

Stratification of patients based on SF-36v2 BP domain scores resulted in three similarly sized patient tertiles of low pain (BP score: 76–100; n=212 (33.1%)), moderate pain (BP score: 53–75; n=187 (29.2%)) and severe pain (BP score: 0–52; n=241 (37.7%)) (table 1). The SF-36v2 BP domain scores were correlated with pain dimension of the EQ-5D-3L (spearman correlation coefficient=0.6756). Stratification of patients based on SF-36v2 VT domain scores resulted in three similarly sized patient tertiles of low fatigue (VT score: 66–100; n=204 (31.9%)), moderate fatigue (VT score: 51–65; n=144 (22.5%)) and severe fatigue (VT score: 0–50; n=292 (45.6%)).

Pain and fatigue levels by geographical region are shown in figure 1. Globally, 37.7% and 45.6% of patients reported severe pain and fatigue, respectively. A higher proportion of patients in EU5 reported severe pain (39.5%) and severe fatigue (48.9%) than in other regions except for T&ME, where 71.1% and 65.8% of patients reported severe pain and fatigue, respectively.

Patient demographics and clinical characteristics by pain and fatigue levels

Patient characteristics that differed across pain (age, body mass index, geographical region, body surface area (BSA) affected by psoriasis) and fatigue (geographical region, BSA affected by psoriasis, comorbid fibromyalgia) levels are reported in table 1.

A higher proportion of patients reporting severe pain and fatigue had their disease rated as ‘severe’ by their physician than those reporting no or low pain and fatigue (Pain: 7.9% vs 0.5%, $p<0.0001$; Fatigue: 5.8% vs 1.0%, $p<0.0001$). A higher proportion of patients reporting severe pain and fatigue had their disease rated as ‘unstable/deteriorating’ by their physician than those reporting no or low pain and fatigue (Pain: 16.7% vs 4.2%, $p<0.0001$; Fatigue: 12.0% vs 2.9%, $p=0.0016$). A higher proportion of patients reporting severe pain and fatigue had current flares than those reporting low or no pain and fatigue (Pain: 6.7% vs 0.9%, $p<0.0001$; Fatigue: 4.8% vs 1.5%, $p=0.032$). However, 83.3% of patients reporting severe pain and 88.0% of patients reporting severe fatigue were considered to have ‘stable/improving’ disease by their physician, while a notable proportion of patients reporting severe pain (39.8%) and severe fatigue (45.5%) were deemed to be in remission, indicating a discordance between patient-reported pain and/or fatigue and physician’s assessment of disease (table 1).

Patients reporting severe pain and fatigue had erythrocyte sedimentation rate levels at 18.3 mm/hour and 17.1 mm/hour, respectively, compared with patients with low pain and fatigue with levels at 11.2 mm/hour and 12.0 mm/hour, respectively ($p<0.0001$ across low, moderate and severe pain and fatigue groups). Patients reporting severe pain and fatigue had C reactive protein levels at 6.4 mg/L and 5.3 mg/L, respectively, compared with patients with low pain and fatigue with levels at 2.2 mg/L and 3.4 mg/L, respectively ($p<0.0001$ across low, moderate and severe pain groups, and $p=0.0115$ across low, moderate and severe fatigue groups).

HRQoL by pain and fatigue levels

Figure 2 illustrates global SF-36v2 data reported by patients with low, moderate and severe pain and fatigue levels. Scores across all SF-36v2 domains (excluding BP, which is the reference category) were significantly different across the three pain cohorts ($p<0.0001$) (figure 2A). Similarly, all SF-36v2 domain scores (excluding VT, which is the reference category) were significantly different across the three fatigue cohorts ($p<0.0001$) (figure 2B). Scores in patients with moderate or severe pain and/or fatigue were considerably lower than the normative scores, whereas patients reporting low pain and/or fatigue levels had scores that approximated normal values for most SF-36v2 domains. In relation to mental health, in addition to the SF-36v2 Mental Health domain being significantly different across pain and fatigue cohorts, patient-reported happiness was also significantly different

Table 1 Patient demographics and clinical characteristics by pain and fatigue levels

Pain Characteristics	Fatigue			P value	Pain			P value	
	Overall (n=640)	Low (BP score 76–100) (n=212)	Moderate (BP score 53–75) (n=187)		Severe (BP score 0–52) (n=241)	Low (VT score 66–100) (n=204)	Moderate (VT score 51–65) (n=144)		Severe (VT score 0–50) (n=292)
Age, years									
Mean (SD)	48.8 (11.6)	46.2 (11.5)	49.0 (10.6)	50.9 (12.0)	0.0002	47.6 (11.6)	48.6 (11.1)	49.7 (11.8)	0.2428
<65, n (%)	573 (89.5)	197 (92.9)	167 (89.3)	209 (86.7)	0.0981	183 (89.7)	131 (91.0)	259 (88.7)	0.7628
Male, n (%)	357 (55.8)	132 (62.3)	102 (54.5)	123 (51.0)	0.0516	118 (57.8)	79 (54.9)	160 (54.8)	0.7725
Mean (SD) BMI, kg/m ²	26.3 (4.6)	25.4 (3.9)	27.0 (4.7)	26.7 (4.9)	0.0003	25.9 (4.6)	26.3 (4.0)	26.6 (4.9)	0.0739
Patient region, n (%)					<0.0001				<0.0001
N America	176 (27.5)	59 (27.8)	59 (31.6)	58 (24.1)		70 (34.3)	44 (30.6)	62 (21.2)	
EU5	329 (51.4)	113 (53.3)	86 (46.0)	130 (53.9)		99 (48.5)	69 (47.9)	161 (55.1)	
APAC	97 (15.2)	40 (18.9)	31 (16.6)	26 (10.8)		35 (17.2)	18 (12.5)	44 (15.1)	
T&ME	38 (5.9)	0 (0.0)	11 (5.9)	27 (11.2)		0 (0.0)	13 (9.0)	25 (8.6)	
Time since symptom onset (years)	(n=531)	(n=169)	(n=157)	(n=205)		(n=160)	(n=121)	(n=250)	
Mean (SD)	7.9 (7.5)	7.4 (7.0)	8.0 (6.9)	8.3 (8.3)	0.7556	7.5 (6.6)	7.0 (6.9)	8.6 (8.2)	0.1366
Time since diagnosis (years)	(n=571)	(n=192)	(n=163)	(n=216)		(n=182)	(n=125)	(n=264)	
Mean (SD)	6.3 (6.4)	6.0 (6.3)	6.6 (6.1)	6.3 (6.7)	0.5556	6.5 (6.5)	5.9 (6.2)	6.3 (6.4)	0.3846
Presence of psoriasis, n (%)	620 (96.9)	205 (96.7)	184 (98.4)	231 (95.9)	0.3189	198 (97.1)	140 (97.2)	282 (96.6)	0.9200
% BSA psoriasis	(n=498)	(n=169)	(n=151)	(n=178)		(n=163)	(n=115)	(n=220)	
Mean (SD)	9.1 (11.2)	6.5 (9.0)	7.4 (9.4)	13.0 (13.4)	<0.0001	7.7 (11.7)	7.0 (7.3)	11.3 (12.2)	<0.0001
HLA-B27 +ve, n (%)	(n=236)	(n=74)	(n=69)	(n=93)		(n=74)	(n=55)	(n=107)	
	92 (39.0)	26 (35.1)	31 (44.9)	35 (37.6)	0.4591	26 (35.1)	31 (56.4)	35 (32.7)	0.7117
Comorbid fibromyalgia*, n (%)	23 (3.6)	4 (1.9)	5 (2.7)	14 (5.8)	0.0592	2 (1.0)	6 (4.2)	15 (5.1)	0.0458
Number of TNFi ever received, n (%)	(n=640)	(n=212)	(n=187)	(n=241)	0.0227	(n=204)	(n=144)	(n=292)	0.0139
1	533 (83.3)	184 (86.8)	160 (85.6)	189 (78.4)		181 (88.7)	111 (77.1)	241 (82.5)	
2	61 (9.5)	22 (10.4)	15 (8.0)	24 (10.0)		13 (6.4)	17 (11.8)	31 (10.6)	
3+	18 (2.8)	1 (0.5)	4 (2.1)	13 (5.3)		2 (1.0)	5 (3.5)	11 (3.8)	
Unknown	28 (4.4)	5 (2.4)	8 (4.3)	15 (6.2)		8 (3.9)	11 (7.6)	9 (3.10)	
Current severity*, n (%)	(n=640)	(n=212)	(n=187)	(n=241)	<0.0001	(n=204)	(n=144)	(n=292)	<0.0001
Mild	435 (68.0)	180 (84.9)	148 (79.1)	107 (44.4)		168 (82.4)	107 (74.3)	160 (54.8)	

Continued

Table 1 Continued

Pain	Fatigue	Low	Moderate	Severe	P value	Low	Moderate	Severe	P value
		(BP score 76–100) (n=212)	(BP score 53–75) (n=187)	(BP score 0–52) (n=241)		(VT score 66–100) (n=204)	(VT score 51–65) (n=144)	(VT score 0–50) (n=292)	
Characteristics	Overall (n=640)								
Moderate	182 (28.4)	31 (14.6)	36 (19.3)	115 (47.7)		34 (16.7)	33 (22.9)	115 (39.4)	
Severe	23 (3.6)	1 (0.5)	3 (1.6)	19 (7.9)		2 (1.0)	4 (2.8)	17 (5.8)	
In remission*, n (%)	349 (54.5)	151 (71.2)	102 (54.5)	96 (39.8)	<0.0001	135 (66.2)	81 (56.3)	133 (45.5)	<0.0001
Disease status*, n (%)	(n=639)	(n=212)	(n=187)	(n=240)	<0.0001	(n=204)	(n=144)	(n=291)	0.0016
Stable/improving	584 (91.4)	203 (95.7)	181 (96.8)	200 (83.3)		198 (92.1)	130 (90.3)	256 (88.0)	
Unstable/deteriorating	55 (8.6)	9 (4.2)	6 (3.2)	40 (16.7)		6 (2.9)	14 (9.7)	35 (12.0)	
Current flare status*, n (%)	(n=639)	(n=212)	(n=187)	(n=240)	0.0001	(n=204)	(n=144)	(n=291)	0.032
Never flared	373 (58.4)	144 (67.9)	101 (54.0)	128 (53.3)		133 (65.2)	81 (56.3)	159 (54.6)	
Flares, not current	242 (37.9)	66 (31.1)	80 (42.8)	96 (40.0)		68 (33.3)	56 (38.9)	118 (40.5)	
Currently flaring	24 (3.8)	2 (0.9)	6 (3.2)	16 (6.7)		3 (1.5)	7 (4.9)	14 (4.8)	
ESR, mm/hour	(n=270)	(n=80)	(n=97)	(n=93)		(n=81)	(n=68)	(n=121)	
Mean (SD)	15.4 (12.2)	11.2 (8.7)	16.2 (13.0)	18.3 (13.0)	<0.0001	12.0 (10.3)	16.6 (15.8)	17.1 (10.6)	0.0001
CRP, mg/L	(n=264)	(n=77)	(n=94)	(n=93)		(n=78)	(n=66)	(n=120)	
Mean (SD)	4.8 (7.2)	2.2 (3.0)	5.3 (7.2)	6.4 (9.1)	<0.0001	3.4 (4.7)	5.4 (8.4)	5.3 (7.8)	0.0115

APAC, Asia-Pacific Region; BMI, body mass index; BP, bodily pain domain; BSA, body surface area; CRP, C reactive protein; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; EU5, Europe; HLA-B27, human leucocyte antigen B27; N America, the USA and Mexico; T&ME, Turkey and the Middle East; TNFi, tumour necrosis factor inhibitors; VT, vitality domain.

*Physician reported. Tertiles generated to balance patient numbers between the groups, while still satisfying the definitions of low, moderate and severe pain and fatigue.

across pain and fatigue cohorts (both $p < 0.0001$), with lower levels of happiness reported by patients with either severe pain or fatigue (table 2).

Regional SF-36v2 domain scores are presented in online supplementary table 2. The greatest difference in domain scores across regions was in the physical functioning domain, where scores ranged from 32.1 in T&ME to 76.8 in APAC. Scores in T&ME were consistently lower than other regions for all domains with the exception of General Health where the EU5 score was lower.

As pain and/or fatigue levels increased from low to moderate to severe, a significantly higher percentage of patients reported ‘some’ or ‘extreme’ problems with mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain and anxiety/depression as measured by the EQ-5D-3L (all $p < 0.0001$) (figure 3). EQ-5D-3L, EQ-visual analogue scale (VAS) and HAQ-DI scores were significantly different across pain and fatigue cohorts (all $p < 0.0001$), with scores lower in patients reporting severe pain and/or fatigue compared with those reporting low pain and/or fatigue (table 2). Regional EQ-5D-3L, EQ-VAS and HAQ-DI scores can be found in online supplementary table 2.

Societal burden by pain and fatigue levels

Of 545 patients of working age (<65 years) who provided employment information, 458 (84.0%) patients were employed, defined as employed, a student or a homemaker (table 2). Employment status differed significantly across pain cohorts ($p = 0.0001$), with lower employment rates (79.1%, 83.2% and 89.9%) and higher unemployment/retirement due to PsA (9.7%, 1.2% and 2.1%) in severe, moderate and low pain cohorts, respectively. Similar results were seen across fatigue cohorts ($p = 0.0001$), with lower employment rate (79.7%, 82.9% and 90.9%) and higher unemployment/retirement due to PsA (8.9%, 2.4% and 0%) in severe, moderate and low fatigue cohorts, respectively. HAQ-DI was significantly different across patients reporting severe, moderate and low pain and fatigue (both $p < 0.0001$) (table 2).

All WPAI measures were significantly different across the pain and fatigue severity cohorts (all $p < 0.0001$), indicating that more severe pain and/or fatigue were associated with greater work impairment, more work time missed and greater impairment while working and during daily activities (table 2). Overall regional results can be

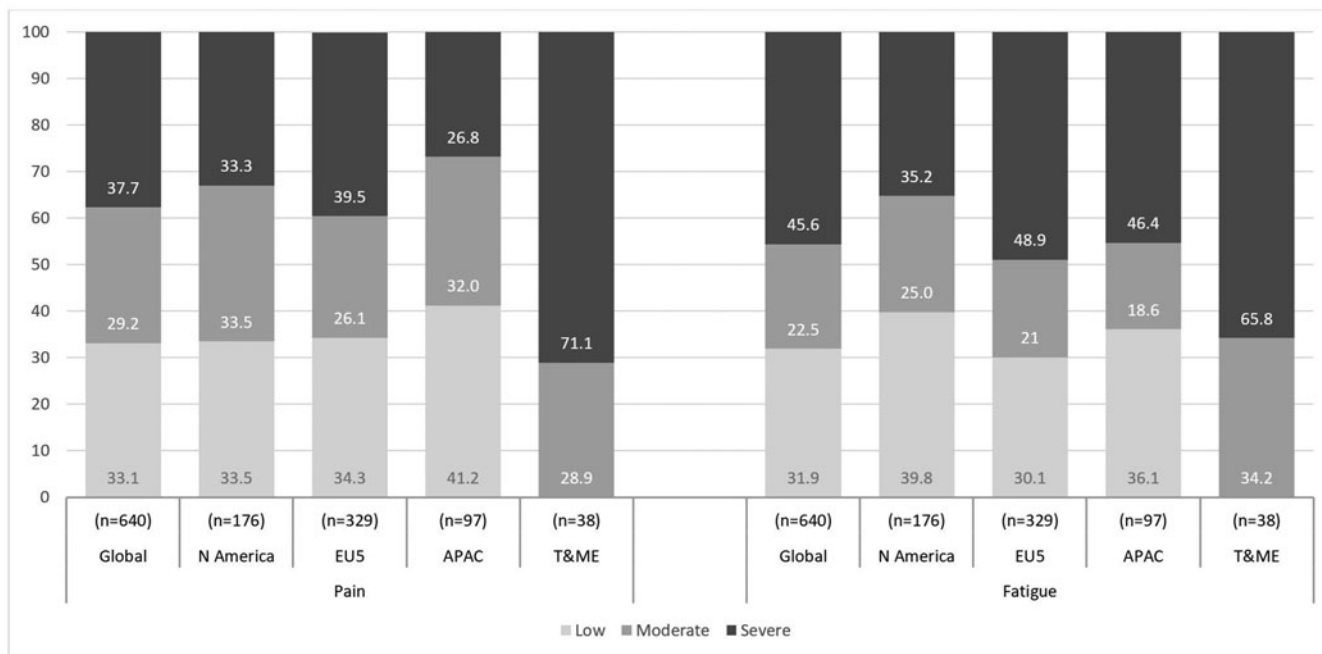
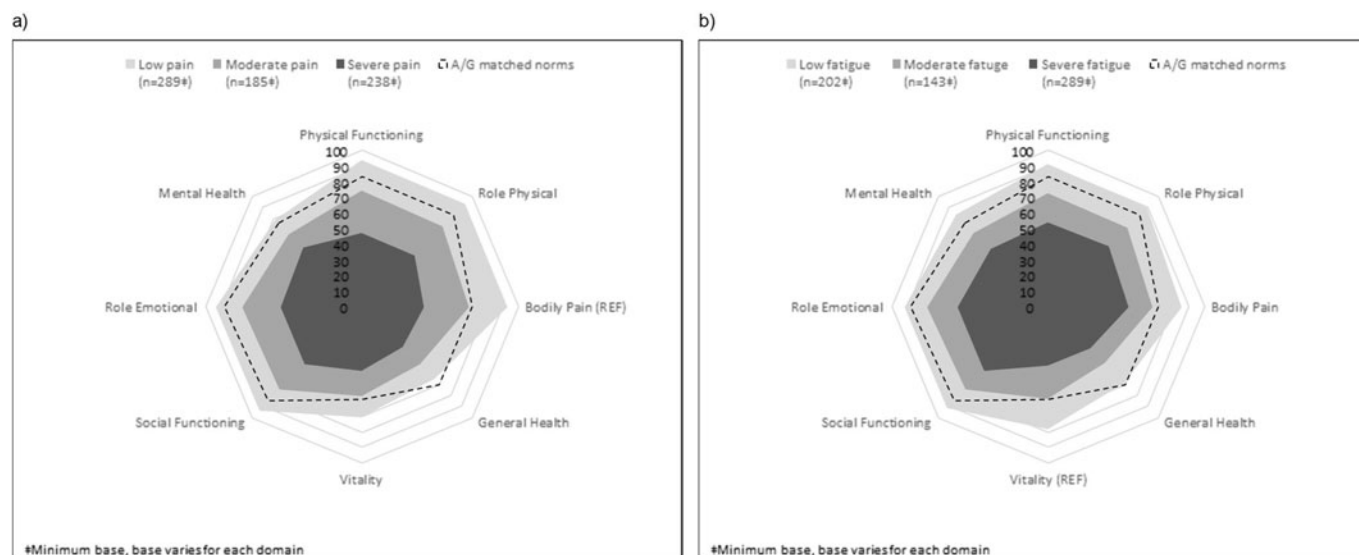


Figure 1 Pain and/or fatigue levels by region. SF-36v2 BP and VT domain scores were stratified into tertiles to define patients with low, moderate or severe pain or fatigue. APAC, Asia-Pacific Region; BP, bodily pain; EU5, Europe; N America, the USA and Mexico, T&ME, Turkey and the Middle East; VT, vitality.



SF-36v2 Scores, mean (SD)	Pain			A/G Matched Norms ²⁵	SF-36v2 scores, mean (SD)	Fatigue			A/G Matched Norms ²⁵
	Low	Moderate	Severe			Low	Moderate	High	
Physical Functioning (n=638)	93.6 (10.3)	74.1 (21.5)	47.0 (24.7)	83.4	Physical Functioning (n=638)	91.6 (12.5)	72.6 (24.0)	54.4 (27.6)	83.4
Role Physical (n=637)	93.0 (12.6)	72.8 (19.1)	46.9 (21.7)	82.9	Role Physical (n=637)	89.7 (16.1)	71.9 (21.0)	54.8 (25.8)	82.9
Bodily Pain REF (n=640)	92.8 (8.2)	68.2 (6.0)	39.1 (11.7)	70.7	Bodily Pain (n=640)	85.2 (16.9)	66.6 (16.7)	51.0 (22.2)	70.7
General Health (n=638)	65.0 (16.2)	52.0 (16.9)	36.1 (17.3)	70.1	General Health (n=638)	68.5 (14.3)	50.8 (16.0)	37.3 (16.6)	70.1
Vitality (n=640)	70.2 (17.3)	57.3 (14.6)	40.8 (16.6)	59.5	Vitality REF (n=640)	78.5 (8.7)	59.0 (3.1)	37.3 (12.4)	59.5
Social Functioning (n=640)	93.5 (11.4)	74.5 (17.4)	52.2 (20.2)	84.8	Social Functioning (n=640)	91.5 (14.8)	74.4 (17.6)	58.0 (22.8)	84.8
Role Emotional (n=635)	93.8 (11.4)	76.8 (20.9)	52.1 (25.1)	88.2	Role Emotional (n=635)	91.8 (15.4)	77.7 (22.2)	57.8 (26.2)	88.2
Mental Health (n=638)	79.0 (14.7)	66.2 (16.3)	53.2 (18.2)	75.6	Mental Health (n=638)	83.5 (11.7)	67.4 (13.0)	52.0 (16.4)	75.6

Figure 2 Spidergram²⁹ of SF-36v2 domain scores by pain (A) and fatigue (B) levels. A/G, age/gender; SF-36v2, Medical Outcomes Study 36-Item Short-Form version 2. All $p < 0.0001$ across levels of pain and fatigue (low, moderate, severe).

Table 2 Patient-reported quality of life and societal burden by pain and fatigue levels

Pain	Fatigue			P value	Low			P value	
	Low (BP score 76–100)	Moderate (BP score 53–75)	Severe (BP score 0–52)		Low (VT score 66–100)	Moderate (VT score 51–65)	Severe (VT score 0–50)		
Overall									
EQ-5D-3L	(n=625)	(n=208)	(n=183)	(n=234)		(n=198)	(n=143)	(n=284)	
Mean (SD)	0.756 (0.288)	0.960 (0.094)	0.790 (0.213)	0.548 (0.313)	<0.0001	0.940 (0.100)	0.776 (0.247)	0.618 (0.320)	<0.0001
EQ-VAS	(n=625)	(n=206)	(n=187)	(n=236)		(n=201)	(n=144)	(n=284)	
Mean (SD)	69.9 (19.2)	82.0 (15.6)	72.1 (14.4)	57.5 (18.0)	<0.0001	82.5 (13.6)	71.8 (17.3)	60.0 (18.1)	<0.0001
HAQ-DI	(n=625)	(n=206)	(n=184)	(n=235)		(n=200)	(n=141)	(n=284)	
Mean (SD)	0.6 (0.7)	0.1 (0.3)	0.5 (0.5)	1.2 (0.7)	<0.0001	0.1 (0.3)	0.5 (0.6)	1 (0.8)	<0.0001
SF-36v2 Q9. How much time during the past week . . . have you been happy?, n (%)	(n=635)	(n=211)	(n=186)	(n=238)	<0.0001	(n=203)	(n=143)	(n=289)	<0.0001
All/most of the time	298 (46.9)	152 (72.0)	90 (48.4)	56 (23.5)		180 (88.7)	68 (47.6)	50 (17.3)	
Some of the time	220 (34.6)	42 (19.9)	73 (39.2)	105 (44.1)		21 (10.3)	61 (42.7)	138 (47.8)	
A little/none of the time	117 (18.4)	17 (8.1)	23 (12.4)	77 (32.4)		2 (1.0)	14 (9.8)	101 (34.9)	
Current employment status among patients of working age, n (%)	(n=545)	(n=188)	(n=161)	(n=196)	<0.0001	(n=176)	(n=123)	(n=246)	0.0001
Employed/Student/Homemaker	458 (84.0)	169 (89.9)	134 (83.2)	155 (79.1)		160 (90.9)	102 (82.9)	196 (79.7)	
Unemployed/retired not due to condition or unspecified	25 (4.6)	15 (8.0)	25 (15.5)	22 (11.2)		16 (9.1)	18 (14.6)	28 (11.4)	
Unemployed/retired due to condition	62 (11.4)	4 (2.1)	2 (1.2)	19 (9.7)		0 (0.0)	3 (2.4)	22 (8.9)	
WPAI: Overall Work Impairment, %	(n=319)	(n=117)	(n=98)	(n=104)		(n=113)	(n=73)	(n=133)	
Mean (SD)	26.9 (25.6)	8.5 (13.5)	25.1 (19.1)	49.4 (24.0)	<0.0001	9.5 (12.0)	28.5 (24.9)	40.9 (25.7)	<0.0001
WPAI: Presenteeism, %	(n=337)	(n=129)	(n=101)	(n=107)		(n=122)	(n=76)	(n=139)	
Mean (SD)	24.0 (23.4)	7.8 (12.6)	22.0 (16.1)	45.3 (22.8)	<0.0001	8.3 (10.5)	26.6 (23.2)	36.3 (23.8)	<0.0001
WPAI: Absenteeism, %	(n=329)	(n=117)	(n=100)	(n=112)		(n=114)	(n=76)	(n=139)	
Mean (SD)	7.2 (18.4)	0.5 (2.2)	5.6 (14.6)	15.6 (26.2)	<0.0001	1.9 (10.7)	6.2 (17.4)	12.1 (22.4)	<0.0001
WPAI: Activity Impairment, %	(n=623)	(n=207)	(n=183)	(n=233)		(n=200)	(n=141)	(n=282)	
Mean (SD)	32.2 (27.4)	8.9 (12.1)	27.4 (17.8)	56.6 (23.0)	<0.0001	10.9 (13.6)	31.3 (23.7)	47.7 (26.1)	<0.0001

Tertiles generated to balance patient numbers between the groups, while still satisfying the definitions of low, moderate and severe pain and fatigue.

BP, bodily pain domain; EQ-5D-3L, 3-level version of 5-dimension EuroQol questionnaire, EQ-VAS, EuroQol visual analogue scale; HAQ-DI, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index; SF-36v2, Medical Outcomes Study 36-Item Short-Form version 2; VT, vitality; Q, question; WPAI, Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire.

found in online supplementary table 2. Regionally, the majority of patients were employed; among employed patients who completed the WPAI questionnaire, the overall work impairment, presenteeism and activity

impairment was around 20–30% in N America, EU5 and APAC, and approximately 70% of patients in T&ME. Absenteeism ranged from 0.8% in APAC to 15% in T&ME.

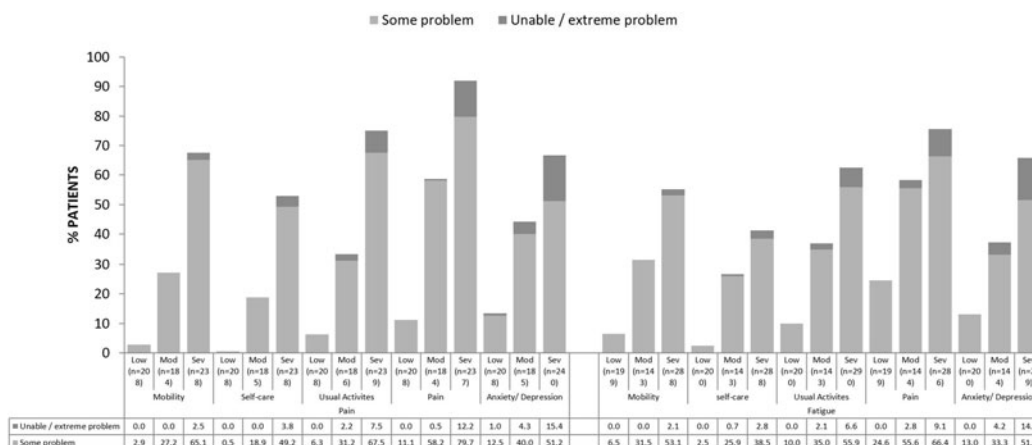


Figure 3 EQ-5D-3L by pain and/or fatigue levels. Categories of EQ-5D-3L responses are percentages of patients with (a) no problems, (b) some problems and (c) confined to bed/unable to perform task/extreme problems; only (b) and (c) are shown on the graph. P values across (a), (b) and (c) response categories of EQ-5D-3L for each level of pain and fatigue (low, moderate and severe) are all $p < 0.0001$.

Use of pain medication by pain levels

Globally, the use of non-prescription pain medication, prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and opioids was significantly different across pain severity cohorts (figure 4). Non-prescription pain medication use was 4.8%, 13.7% and 23.5% ($p < 0.0001$); prescription NSAID use was 23.1%, 28.9% and 38.6% ($p = 0.0014$); and opioid use was 0.5%, 1.6% and 4.1% ($p = 0.0229$) in patients reporting low, moderate and severe pain, respectively.

DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first global real-world study of the relationship between pain and/or fatigue with HRQoL and work status in patients with PsA treated with TNFi. We observed that higher levels of pain and/or fatigue were associated with decreased HRQoL, as well as reduced physical functioning, ability to participate in activities of daily living and work productivity. Our results also suggest a discordance between patient-reported pain and/or fatigue and physicians' assessment of disease control.

Our results are in agreement with other studies that pain is a common complaint in patients with PsA treated with TNFi therapy.^{8–10} Patients reporting severe pain also exhibited more severe psoriasis. As pain is a common symptom of psoriasis,³⁰ it may be that the skin component of PsA, for example, itching, is a contributor to the pain these patients experience. In our study, we observed statistically increased levels of inflammatory markers with greater severity of pain; though these absolute levels were not high, they may indicate that the disease is not under control with the ongoing treatment. We previously reported that even while experiencing a lack of efficacy, switching of TNFi was often delayed in patients with PsA.³¹ In addition, we observed a higher rate of physician-reported fibromyalgia in patients reporting severe pain and/or severe fatigue, which is consistent

with previous reports that patients with PsA often exhibit widespread pain from fibromyalgia and that severe fatigue is common in patients with PsA with co-morbid fibromyalgia.^{5 32} The prevalence of moderate to severe fatigue in our study (63%) is in line with a previous estimate of fatigue of 57% in this patient population.⁵

Our study demonstrates that patients reporting severe pain and/or fatigue have reduced HRQoL, impaired ability to work and high rates of unemployment and retirement compared with patients reporting low pain and/or low fatigue. This finding is consistent with a report that overall employment rates are significantly lower in patients with rheumatic diseases than in the general population, especially in those with ankylosing spondylitis and PsA.^{33–35} Unemployment and work impairment, including time away from work (absenteeism) or reduced effectiveness at work (presenteeism), affects up to 50% of people with PsA.⁶ A National Psoriasis Foundation (US) survey found that 49% of respondents routinely missed work due to psoriasis or PsA, with more than 10 workdays per month missed by 31% of those respondents.³⁶ Impaired ability to work impacts HRQoL and is costly to society as a whole.^{37 38} In the Norwegian (NOR-DMARD) study, the cost of absenteeism in patients with PsA taking bDMARDs over a 2-year period was €111 200.³⁸

A recent study comparing the perceptions of psoriatic disease symptoms in the USA revealed areas of discordance between both patients and physicians, and between rheumatologists and dermatologists, on a comprehensive set of disease symptoms and functional impacts.³⁹ In agreement with this and other studies, we also observed discordance between patient-reported symptoms and physician's assessment of disease in our global patient sample.^{39–41}

A major strength of this study is that it presents real-world data in patients with PsA treated with TNFi around the world, and the negative impact on patient's HRQoL

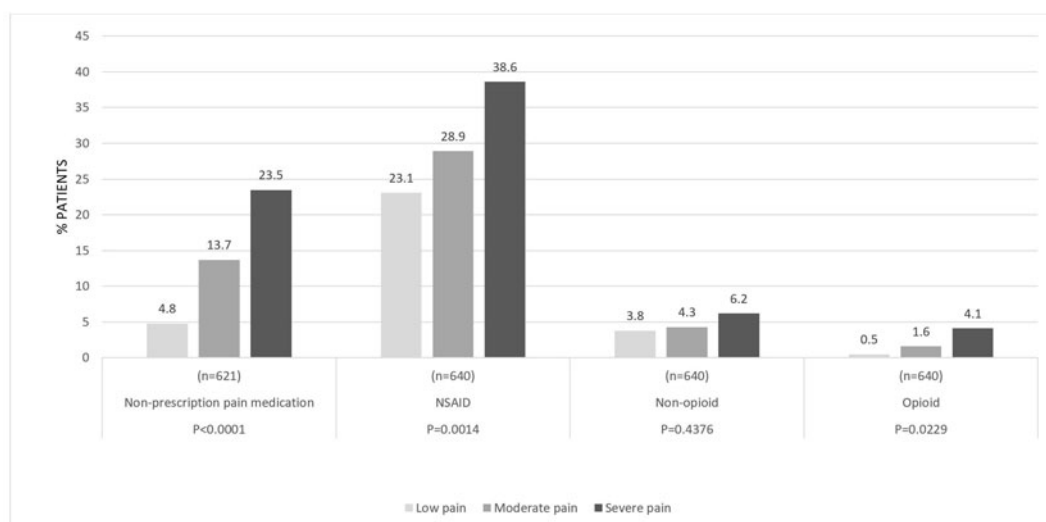


Figure 4 Use of pain medication by pain levels. NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; OTC, over the counter.

and WPAI associated with pain and/or fatigue despite advanced therapy. However, several potential limitations associated with data derived from this study should be considered. It has been suggested that domains within patient-reported outcome measures are correlated with each other; therefore, analysis between domains within the same outcome measure should be interpreted with caution. Cross-sectional studies are limited in their selection of patients, sample size and data collection. In contrast to a clinical trial where disease activity is assessed by a range of validated measures, physicians' ratings of disease activity may be considered subjective. However, our study reflects physician practice in a real-world clinical setting where assessments may include a global assessment rather than focusing on disease activity. Another limitation of this study is that it is not possible to determine the impact of undiagnosed fibromyalgia on our results despite observing that overall physician-reported comorbid fibromyalgia levels were low yet increased in the patient groups with high pain and/or fatigue. Also, there is likely variability in clinician and regional sensitivity to, and reporting of, fibromyalgia. Another limitation of our study is that we did not compare pain and/or fatigue in patients with PsA not on TNFi with those on TNFi. While we do show that there is still a major unmet need (continuing pain and/or fatigue) in patients treated with TNFi, there is a possibility that for patients not treated this need is even higher. We did not capture patient-reported details on depression, which is associated with the incidence and severity of disease activity and HRQoL. For the purposes of the analysis, working age was set to patients ≤ 65 years, meaning that the variable working age by country was not considered. In general, regional results were consistent with global results, with the exception of T&ME, where most outcome measures were worse than those observed in other regions; however, since there was a low sample size in this region ($n=38$), results for T&ME should be interpreted with caution. Finally,

although recall bias is a common limitation of surveys, data in our study were collected at the time of patients' appointments, thus reducing the likelihood of recall bias.

CONCLUSIONS

Our study is the first global real-world analysis of the relationship between pain and/or fatigue with HRQoL and WPAI in patients with PsA treated with TNFi. Our results show that greater severity of pain and/or fatigue are associated with decreased HRQoL, as well as reduced physical functioning, ability to participate in daily activities and work productivity. Our study confirms previous reports that patients with PsA commonly report pain despite being treated with TNFi.⁸ The high burden that severe pain and/or fatigue, in spite of TNFi treatment, place on patients in terms of limited function, diminished HRQoL and reduced ability to contribute to society as part of the workforce indicate that these are areas of significant unmet need in the treatment and management of PsA.

Author affiliations

¹Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

²Internal Medicine II, Rheumatology, SCHLOSSPARK-KLINIK, University Medicine Berlin, Berlin, Germany

³Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA

⁴Adelphi Values, Bollington, UK

⁵Adelphi Real World, Bollington, UK

⁶Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, East Hanover, New Jersey, USA

⁷Novartis AG, Basel, Switzerland

⁸Immunology/Rheumatology, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA

⁹Biopharmaceutical Consultant, Portola Valley, California, USA

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ORCID iDs

Rieke Alten <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3395-4412>

Emma Sullivan <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7780-1939>

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