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Methodological aspects of outcome assessment in inflammatory rheumatic diseases

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

Methodological aspects of outcome assessment in inflammatory rheumatic diseases

1. It is technically possible and methodologically appropriate to measure radiographic progression in patients with rheumatoid arthritis at the joint level.
2. Negative change scores in X-ray readings of rheumatoid arthritis clinical trials may truly reflect repair of damage, such as erosions, and are not only attributable to measurement error.
3. Including automated measurement of joint space width in rheumatoid arthritis clinical trials may improve the discriminatory ability of radiographic assessment.
4. The SENS ('Simple Erosion and Narrowing Score')-method is a tool that clinically working rheumatologists can systematically apply in order to monitor damage and progression of damage in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.
5. Adherence to institutional recommendations about the best management of patients with inflammatory disorders has a measurable impact on the outcome of patients.
6. The ASDAS ('Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score') should be recommended as the primary outcome measure in drug trials with patients with ankylosing spondylitis.
7. Repair of erosions almost exclusively occurs in damaged joints without swelling.
8. The intra-class-correlation coefficient (ICC) as a statistic for relative agreement can be spuriously influenced by the used scale-range in a reliability experiment.
9. Patients presenting with arthritis should be seen by a rheumatologist as soon as possible in order to make an appropriate prognosis and to start optimal treatment.
10. Moving means can become more "ecologically-responsible" independently from the average weather (e.g. cycling in The Netherlands is the most appropriate way to make everyday-travels despite average cold temperatures, while using a bicycle in the South of France is regarded as a dangerous and uncomfortable way to move).
11. European people (especially French) are more interested in debates and discussions regarding upcoming elections than in politics itself.

Cédric Lukas

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