Cervical spine deformity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: from prevention to prediction

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift getiteld

Cervical spine deformity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis:
from prevention to prediction.

1. Although less prevalent, rheumatoid arthritis (RA)-associated cervical spine deformity still exists, even with proper management of disease aimed at low systemic disease activity. *(This thesis)*

2. Many possible definitions of RA-associated cervical spine deformity are known in literature. This lack of standardization is a major barrier in the prevention and prediction of RA. *(This thesis)*

3. Artificial intelligence could prove to be helpful in identifying patients at risk for cervical spine deformity after external validation on a large scale. *(This thesis)*

4. Prolonged use of glucocorticoids increases the odds of cervical spine deformity in RA patients. We should aim to avoid prescribing long-term or high dose glucocorticoids. *(This thesis)*

5. In order to truly shift from treatment to prevention in rheumatology, it is relevant to study prediction first.

6. It is important to further research the relationship between radiological signs of cervical spine deformity and clinical disease burden in RA patients, to further specify treatment goals in RA.

7. While prolonged biologic DMARD therapy appears to be able to prevent cervical spine deformity in some RA patients, it remains ambiguous whether it can halt progression once deformity is present.

8. The future of AI is promising, but also complex and depending on how we as a society handle it. *(Chat GPT, who apparently considers itself part of society)* The use of AI, especially in medicine, is complex and its future depends on its implied use.

9. From a pier during holidays to an office in the United States: it is the scientist who determines the quality of the thesis and not the circumstances in which it is written.

10. If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research. *(Informal quote from Albert Einstein, year unknown).* Everything we know today was once unknown before it was researched.

11. If you keep practicing, you can do anything. *(Elmo, 1999).* You need perseverance to learn.