

ACREU RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS QUESTIONNAIRE: YOUR ARTHRITIS AND YOU

Do you have rheumatoid arthritis? Yes No

If 'yes', please continue.

If 'no', please return this blank questionnaire in the envelope provided.

We would like you to answer a few questions about your arthritis by checking the box that best describes how much you agree (1) or disagree (5) with each statement.

Examples:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain/ don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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Example 1:

Aspirin sometimes causes stomach upset ₁ ₂ ₃ ₄ ₅

This person strongly agrees that aspirin causes stomach upset.

Example 2:

Cows get arthritis as often as humans ₁ ₂ ₃ ₄ ₅

This person is not sure whether or not cows can get arthritis.

		Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain/ don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	For some people, rheumatoid arthritis causes very few problems	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
2	Meeting other people with rheumatoid arthritis in a group can teach you many things	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
3	When you are feeling well, you should reduce your arthritis medications	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
4	The presence of rheumatoid arthritis often results in family stress	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
5	Splints should be worn if you have pain in your wrists when you work with your hands	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
6	Ice treatments often make the joints swell	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
7	Many people with rheumatoid arthritis are scared about the future	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
8	To save energy, people with rheumatoid arthritis should sit when working instead of standing	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
9	Anger is a common reaction when someone is first told they have rheumatoid arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
10	If you have rheumatoid arthritis, the arches in your feet may need extra support	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
11	It is common to feel depressed when you have rheumatoid arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

		Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain/ don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
12	You can protect the joints in your hands by using the palms of your hands instead of your fingers to do chores	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
13	People with rheumatoid arthritis often lose confidence in themselves	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
14	A damaged joint hurts more when you rest it	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
15	Most people with rheumatoid arthritis have to quit their jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
16	The pharmacist is a good source of information about your arthritis medications	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
17	Rheumatoid arthritis affects only the joints	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
18	There is no relationship between stress and rheumatoid arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
19	Your doctor will tell you everything you need to know about your rheumatoid arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
20	When you are in a flare, you should stop all exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
21	Most people with rheumatoid arthritis end up in a wheelchair	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
22	It's good for your feet to wear supportive shoes in the house instead of slippers	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
23	The cause of rheumatoid arthritis is not known	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

		Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain/ don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
24	It is easy for your family/friends to tell when you are in pain	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
25	If you have rheumatoid arthritis, the ability to fully straighten and bend your joints can be lost quickly	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
26	Rheumatoid arthritis sometimes goes away	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
27	When you are having a good day, you should get all your chores done	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
28	Rheumatoid arthritis is different in everyone	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
29	Neck pain can be caused by a poor sleep position	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
30	All people with rheumatoid arthritis get "crooked joints"	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
31	Talking about your rheumatoid arthritis with someone you trust can make you feel better	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

Date completed: ___/___/___ dd/mm/year

We are interested in knowing some general information about the people who complete this questionnaire. Please answer the following short questions.

1. How old are you? _____ years
2. How long have you had Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)? ___ years ___ months
3. Sex: Female Male
4. Have you ever talked to a physiotherapist, occupational therapist or social worker in a hospital about the treatment of your arthritis ? Yes No
5. Have you ever talked to an Arthritis Society physiotherapist, occupational therapist or social worker about the treatment of your arthritis ? Yes No
6. Have you ever talked to any **other** physiotherapist, occupational therapist or social worker about the treatment of your arthritis ? Yes No
7. Please tell us what formal schooling you have completed. Please check which category applies.
 - public school or less
 - some high school
 - high school graduate
 - some college
 - college graduate
 - some university
 - university graduate
 - post-graduate degree

It's very important for our study that every question is answered. Please take a minute to check back over the questions to make sure you've answered them all.

Thank You!

Cite as:

Lineker SC, Badley EM, Hughes EA, Bell MJ. Development of an instrument to measure knowledge in individuals with rheumatoid arthritis: the ACREU rheumatoid arthritis knowledge questionnaire. J Rheumatol. 1997 Apr;24(4):647-53. [\[Pub Med ID 9101496\]](#)