

中文題目：類風濕性關節炎之延遲診斷—以中華民國類風濕性關節炎之友會員為例

英文題目：DELAY IN DIAGNOSIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN MEMBERS OF THE
TAIWAN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AID GROUP

作者：葉宏明

服務單位：台南市立醫院（委託秀傳醫療社團法人經營）內科

Background: To quantify delays in the diagnosis of patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Method: Subjects were recruited from among members of the Rheumatoid Arthritis Aid Group of the ROC who participated in the annual meeting. Variables on the questionnaires included gender, age, education, marital status and full-time job. The lag time between disease onset and the first encounter with a physician was recorded as the “patient delay” . The time between first encounter and the definite diagnosis was recorded as the “medical delay” .

Result: Of the 114 respondents, 106 (93%) were females; the mean (SD) age was 58.27(11.04) years, and the mean (SD) duration of disease was 16.48 (11.19) years. The median of patient and medical delay was 6 and 8 weeks, respectively. The median of the total lag time was 23 weeks, with no difference between men and women (16 vs. 25 weeks). The patient delay among women was significantly longer than that among men (1 vs. 6 weeks).

The medical delay was longer for men than for women, without a significant difference (16.5 vs. 8 weeks). There was a longer total lag time among those without a full-time job than among in those who worked full time (12 vs. 28 weeks, $p=0.007$).

Conclusion: Our study indicates quite long lag times between disease onset and the first encounter with a physician and the time between first encounter and the definite diagnosis among patients with rheumatoid arthritis.