

## Poster Presentations (1791)

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# PREVALENCE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL COMPLAINTS AND DISABILITY IN TUNISIA: A WHO-ILAR **COPCORD** STUDY

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**Objectives:** To determine the prevalence of musculoskeletal complaints and disability in Tunisian population, in the absence of equivalent data in Africa.

**Methods:** A prospective transversal epidemiological study included in a wide longitudinal survey was conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of the Public Health on a Tunisian population. Were proportionally involved all Tunisian regions. The Community Oriented Program for Control of Rheumatic Diseases (**COPCORD**) Stage I was carried out in the households drawn out urban and rural regions. The WHO-ILAR Core questionnaire was applied by primary health care workers at the last home visit of the longitudinal survey.

**Results:** The non response rate was estimated at 1.8% of the households. The prevalence of musculoskeletal complaints was 31.1% among the 1582 investigated subjects (36.7 ± 21 yr) and 38.7% among those aged 15 years and above (51.9 ± 17.9 yr). There was no difference between rural and urban populations, while a significant higher prevalence was found in Tunisian women (43.2% vs 29.1%, p<0.001). The most common symptomatic sites were knees (19.3%), lumbar spine (15.9%) and shoulders (8.7%). The intensity of pain was described as high in 34.3% and moderate in 48.4%. Functional disability was reported in 60% of the symptomatic subjects and 16.2% of these had stopped their professional activities. Forty one subjects (2.6%), aged 38.6 ± 22.2 yr [5 – 85], indicated a fracture that occurred during the last year.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of musculoskeletal complaints in Tunisia seems to be among the highest compared to those of other countries that used the **COPCORD** program. It was close to those noticed in Australia, Brazil, Kuwait and Thailand.