
OBJECTIVE. To test the feasibility of a COPCORD survey. MATERIALS AND METHODS: Tehran with 1/10th of the population of Iran of mixed ethnic origin was selected. It is representative of the ethnic distribution of the country. Subjects were randomly selected from the 22 districts. Interviewers were selected from BS certified nurses and midwives. Physicians were selected from subspecialty fellows of Rheumatology. Both groups completed different levels of training courses for the survey. RESULTS: The pilot study was completed in one day, from 9 AM to 6:30 PM. One hundred sixty eight houses were visited and 284 subjects with age range of 15-82.5 and mean age of 39.2 years were interviewed. The male to female ratio was 0.87 to 1.00. The ethnic distribution was Caucasians 66.2%, Turks 32%, and Semites 1.8%. Musculoskeletal complaints during the past 7 days were detected in 45.4% of the interviewed subjects. Distribution was: shoulder 18.3%; wrist 13.4%; hand 15.1%; hip 10.2%; knee 26.1%; ankle 12.7%; big toe 11.6%; cervical spine 13.7%; dorsal and lumbar spine 22.2%; others 12.3%. Degenerative Joint Disease was detected in: neck 0.70 %; lumbar spine 0.70%; knee 9.76%; others 2.44%; multiple joints 2.09%. Others were: low back pain 2.79%; sciatica 0.35%; tennis elbow 0.70%; shoulder tenosynovitis 0.70%; tendonitis and tenosynovitis 1.06%. No inflammatory disorder was encountered. Disability was reported by 23.9%. CONCLUSION: The pilot study warrants a COCPORD survey covering 10.000 subjects to acquire prevalence rate of Rheumatoid Arthritis with adequate statistical power. KEYWORDS: COPCORD, Iran, Rheumatic Diseases, Community-based Epidemiology.