

COVID-19-related death in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs)

In common with the general population, older age was more closely linked to COVID-19-related death



3,729

People with RMDs and COVID-19 were studied



Out of those who died, 69% were over the age of 65



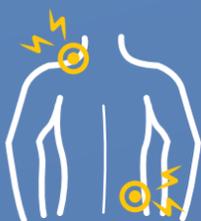
Higher risk for men compared to women

Most RMD medications were not associated with COVID-19-related death

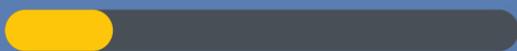


People with RMDs should continue taking their medication unless told otherwise by the rheumatologists and other health professionals managing their care

People with lower RMD disease activity or in remission were less likely to die from COVID-19 compared with those with higher disease activity, highlighting the importance of adequate disease control



3 or more comorbidities (additional medical conditions) were also more common in people who died from COVID-19



21% of those studied had 3 or more comorbidities



43% of those studied, who died, had 3 or more comorbidities



Hypertension combined with cardiovascular disease and chronic lung disease were the most relevant comorbidities

People with RMDs under certain medications may have a higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease



Caution may be required with Rituximab, some immunosuppressants, and possibly Sulfasalazine



Although, disease severity and comorbidities may have also contributed to these reported associations

Data source: [COVID-19-related death in rheumatic diseases lay summary \(EULAR COVID-19 Database\)](#)

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