

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To study the prevalence of peripheral neuropathy (PN) in rheumatoid arthritis patients and to investigate the relationship between electrophysiological findings of peripheral neuropathy and clinical findings of RA.

**Methods:** Rheumatoid arthritis patients were electrophysiologically examined for evidence of peripheral neuropathy. Study parameters including age, gender, laboratory parameters, duration of RA and medication, were recorded.

**Results:** Out of a total of 60 RA patients, **26(43%)** had peripheral neuropathy: **2** had carpal tunnel syndrome, **6** had sensory polyneuropathy, **11** had sensorimotor polyneuropathy, **5** had motor neuropathy and **2** had mononeuritis multiplex. The mean ages of the patients were 45.85 and 36.65 years, respectively ( $p < 0.05$ ). A significant relationship was found between peripheral neuropathy and anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) antibody, RF, ESR, duration of RA. No relationship was found between peripheral neuropathy and neuropathic symptoms, gender and CRP.

**Conclusion:** Neuropathic symptoms are common in RA patients. It is difficult to distinguish peripheral neuropathy symptoms from those of arthritis. Elderly patients, longer duration of RA and anti-CCP antibody positive patients with or without neuropathic symptoms should undergo electrophysiological studies.

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Peripheral neuropathy, Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide.