Sick Leave Before and After Diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis - A Report from the Swedish TIRA Project

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J Rheumatol 2010;37;681
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The Journal of Rheumatology is a monthly international serial edited by Earl D. Silverman featuring research articles on clinical subjects from scientists working in rheumatology and related fields.
Björk M, Thyberg I, Rikner K, Balogh I, Gerdle B. Sick leave before and after diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis — A report from the Swedish TIRA Project. J Rheumatol 2009;36:1170-9; doi:10.3899/jrheum.080523. In the Discussion, page 1175, the part “In an earlier report from the Swedish TIRA project based on self-reported sick leave data 28% of the total study group were on sick leave at time of diagnosis. The rate remained mainly unchanged during the following 3 years7. In our study, the rate of sick leave at time of diagnosis was 53% and also remained stable after. The differences in sick leave rates in the 2 studies may reflect the difficulty of comparing self-reported and register-based sick leave data...” should read, “In an earlier report from the Swedish TIRA project based on self-reported sick leave data, almost 50% of the total study group were on sick leave at time of diagnosis. The rate remained mainly unchanged during the following 3 years7. In our study, the rate of sick leave at time of diagnosis was 53% and also remained stable after, indicating no difference between self-reported and register-based sick leave data in the TIRA cohort.”

This has unfortunately also led to a false statement in the related editorial, Eberhardt K, J Rheumatol 2009; 36:1104-6 (page 1104): “The variation in results obtained by different data collection methods is well illustrated by a previous TIRA study, where the corresponding figure for self-reported sick leave was 28%.” We regret the error. Doi:10.3899/jrheum.080523C1.