

FACTORS INFLUENCING PARTICIPATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PREVENTION

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Abstract: Clinical research participation in Rheumatology has historically suffered from lack of power due to low prevalence of rheumatic disease in the population. In the Research Participation Influences (RPI) study, we looked at the factors that contribute to an individual's decision to participate in clinical research to improve future study design and enrollment. Those who were screened through StopRA, a rheumatoid arthritis prevention study, were asked to take part in a survey that assessed demographics and personal influences for their decision to participate or not to participate in clinical research. We found that having first degree relatives with RA, wanting benefit to self, family, and others, as well as a perceived personal risk of developing RA were motivating influences for study enrollment, whereas the potential of side effects from the medication was a deterrent. Furthermore, among those who had first degree relatives with RA, wanting the study to benefit their family and a high perceived risk of developing RA were found to be motivators for participation. With these findings, we can increase study participation by directly asking first degree relatives of people with RA to take part in research and improve study design by more thoroughly addressing motivators for enrollment.