## P37 CORTICOSTEROIDS THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

III Środkowo Europejski Kongres Osteoporozy i Osteoartrozy oraz XV Zjazd Polskiego Towarzystwa Osteoartrologii i Polskiej Fundacji Osteoporozy, Kraków 24-26.09.2009

## Streszczenia:

Ortopedia Traumatologia Rehabilitacja 2009, vol 11 (Suppl. 2), s:153-154.

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**Key words:** Rheumatoid arthritis, glikocorticoides, therapy outcome

Introduction: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) as autoimmune, inflammatory arthropathy required specific treatment which includes usage of glikocorticoides (GC).

Aim: The aim of study was to evaluate effect of GC therapy in patients with RA.

Material and methods: We examined 250 patients 57.26 years old ( $\pm$  9.34 years), 77.67% was female patient, who suffered from RA 8.39 years (1-39 years), in 89.32% was RF positive RA.

Results: Patients used in 95.15% non-fluorides GC. Predominate form was oral application 57.29% (prednisone 41.75% and metilptrednisolon 15.54%), but in 33.98 was intramuscular application of metilprednisolon-acetat. Only 3.88% patients took combination. Stage or RA changes was classified with Stein-Brocker's criteria and we found that 45.63% of our patients were in Grade 3 anatomical

classification but 58.25% were in Grade 2 functional classification, but bettering functional capacity statistically significant correlated (r=0.2227, p=0.024) was GC application. Morning stiffness longer than 60 minutes had 54.37%. Serious adverse effect was not evidenced.

**Conclusion:** We can conclude that application of corticosteroids in treatment RA can be safe and beneficial for patient.