

# RA individuals from lower GDP countries keep working despite worse symptoms than richer countries

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Individuals diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in lower gross domestic product (GDP) countries (GDP below \$11,000) are more likely to continue working despite higher disease activity and functional disability scores compared to their counterparts in higher GDP countries (GDP >\$24,000) according to a new multinational study presented today at EULAR 2009, the Annual Congress of the European League Against Rheumatism in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Among 1,650 individuals from 30 countries whose symptoms had begun during the 2000's and who remained working after RA diagnosis, disability levels according to the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ\*) were 0.25 vs. 0.82 in men and 0.50 vs. 0.94 in women (p

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