

Menopausal status, hormone replacement therapy use and risk of self-reported physician-diagnosed osteoarthritis in women attending menopause clinics in Italy

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Objective: In order to offer data on the association between menopausal status, hormone replacement therapy use and risk of self-reported physician-diagnosed osteoarthritis (OA) in women around menopause, we analyzed information collected in the framework of a large epidemiological study conducted in Italy.

Methods: Since 1997, a large cross sectional study has been conducting on the characteristics of women around menopause attending a network of first level outpatients menopause clinics in Italy for general counseling about menopause or treatment of menopausal symptoms. Eligible for the study were women consecutively observed at the participating centers. Up to March 2000, a total of 42.464 women (mean age 53 years) were observed. Women were asked, using the same questionnaire, about their general characteristics and habits, and if they suffer of OA diagnosed by a physician requiring medical or surgical treatment.