

## COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE MALLYA INDEX, RIEL INDEX AND DISEASE ACTIVITY SCORE IN EVALUATING DISEASE ACTIVITY IN R.A.

By

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### ABSTRACT:

The aim of this study is to assess the validity of 10 commonly used single variables and 3 composite indices in evaluating the disease activity among patients with R.A. 118 patients diagnosed to have RA according to the ACR criteria, who have a disease duration of less than 2 years constitute the subject of this study. Each variable was correlated with other variables (correlational validity), with physical disability (criterion validity) and radiologically scored joint damage (construct validity).

The results of this study showed the disease activity score and the Mallya index to be the most valid, followed by the Riel index. Single variables showed poor validity, especially the haemoglobin. The best single variable was the number of swollen joints

### INTRODUCTION:

Rheumatoid arthritis (R.A) is a remittent disease in which the clinical course varies greatly over time. In evaluating the disease, it is very important to assess the clinical activity (Fries, 1983). Radiographic abnormalities and physical disability are used to assess the outcome of the disease. Several methods to score radiographic

damage (Sharp, 1989), and questionnaires to measure physical disability have been widely tested (Meanan et al., 1982).

No agreement exists about which variables to use to assess disease activity in clinical trials. Single clinical and laboratory variables are used in measuring the disease activity (Scott et al., 1989). Some composite indices have also been devel-