

The Impact of Arthritis in Ontario

The Human Story

Arthritis is a chronic disease that has a devastating and debilitating effect on the lives of more than 6 million Canadians. Arthritis brings with it a burden of pain and disability that those living with this disease have to face every day. The main symptoms of arthritis are joint pain, stiffness and swelling, which result in significant disability and poor quality of life.

In Ontario, 40% of people with arthritis require help with daily activities, compared to 13% of people with other chronic conditions.

Osteoarthritis (OA) in Ontario

More than 1.7 million people – or 1 in 8 Ontarians – are living with Osteoarthritis (OA). Within a generation (30 years) it is anticipated that 1 in 4 or 4.28 million Ontarians will be living with OA and one person in Ontario will be diagnosed every 3 minutes.

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in Ontario

Unlike OA, Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) can occur at any age. More than 105,000 people in Ontario were living with RA. The prevalence of RA is expected to rise by 82 per cent by 2030. In 2040, 225,000 – or 1 in 77 people in Ontario – will be living with RA; one person in Ontario will be diagnosed with RA every 53 minutes.

Economic Impact

Impact on the Productivity of the Ontario Labour Force (OA)

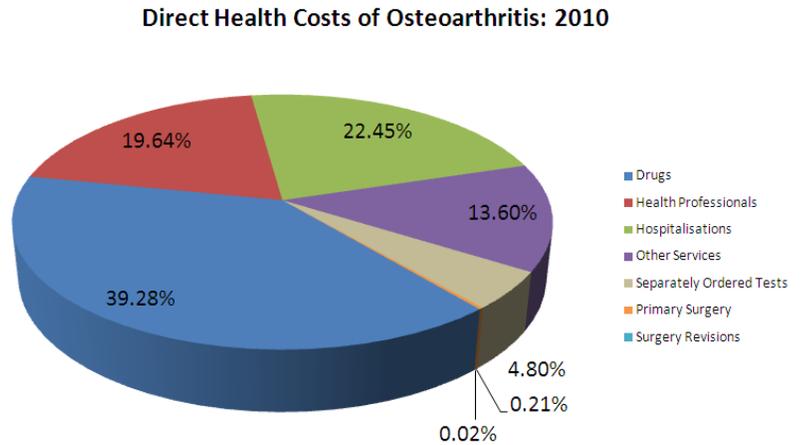
While OA is generally perceived as a condition that affects older adults, it is estimated that OA resulted in \$6.87 billion dollars in productivity losses in Ontario. This number is expected to rise by 63 per cent by 2020 and more than double by 2040 (134 per cent). Summed over the next 30 years, OA is expected to result in \$379 billion in productivity losses in Ontario alone (after adjusting for inflation and interest rates).

Impact on the Productivity of the Ontario Labour Force (RA)

On average, someone with RA will be work disabled within 10 years of getting the disease. It is estimated that RA generated \$1.29 billion dollars in productivity losses in Ontario. This number is expected to rise by 117 per cent by the year 2040. The cumulative total productivity losses generated by RA are expected to reach \$67.8 billion dollars by 2040 (after adjusting for inflation and interest rates).

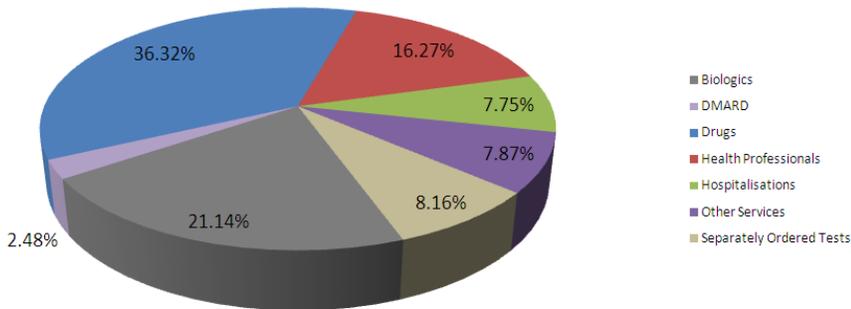
Direct Health Care Costs (OA) on the Province of Ontario

It is estimated that OA drove \$3.93 billion dollars in direct health care costs in Ontario. These costs are expected to rise by 70 per cent by 2020 and by 119 per cent in 2040 (in 2010 dollar terms). Over the next 30 years, the cumulative total direct health care costs associated with OA in Ontario are expected to exceed \$215 billion dollars.



Direct Health Care Costs (RA) on the Province of Ontario

Direct Health Costs of Rheumatoid Arthritis: 2010



It is estimated that RA drove \$916 million dollars in direct health care costs in Ontario. These costs are expected to rise by 45 per cent by 2040 (in 2010 dollar terms). Total cumulative direct health care costs associated with RA in Ontario are expected to exceed \$37.4 billion dollars over the next 30 years (2040).