

INTRODUCTION

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Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common inflammatory arthritis, affecting about 1% of general population worldwide. Although it is considered a disease of joints, it can exhibit a variety of extra-articular manifestations (*Firestein, 1997*).

RA has become an important cause of disability and morbidity, also as a drain on human and monetary resources (*Edward and Harris, 1997*).

Description of impact of rheumatic disease indicates that disability is strongly influenced by social and environmental circumstances and presents an opportunity to buffer the consequences of these disorders for people so affected on a social level (*Liang and Daltroy, 1985*).

Fatigue is a significant problem for people with RA, as it contributes to work disability, personal injury, inability to participate in a rehabilitation program and strained relationships (*Belza, 1995*).

In addition fatigue is a frequently occurring symptom in individual with rheumatic disease, several studies have stressed the importance of psychosocial factors in relation to fatigue (*Belza et al., 1993*).