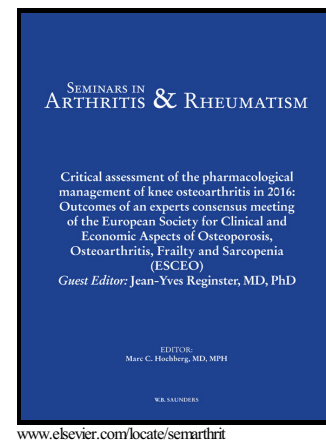


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Systematic Review of Rheumatic Disease Epidemiology in the Indigenous Populations of Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Past publications have highlighted an excess rheumatic disease incidence and prevalence in Indigenous populations of Canada (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), and the United States of America (Alaska Native, American Indian). We have updated these reviews and expanded the scope to include New Zealand (Maori) and Australia (Aborigine) Indigenous populations.

Methods: We performed a broad search using medical literature databases, Indigenous specific online indexes, and government websites to identify publications reporting the incidence and/or prevalence of arthritis conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthropathies, gout, osteoarthritis, systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases, juvenile idiopathic arthritis) in the Indigenous populations of Canada, America, New Zealand and Australia. A narrative synthesis by type of arthritis was prepared given the heterogeneity of study designs used in the primary studies.

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