

AARDA Survey Study

In order to determine the extent of the problem with women who have a serious autoimmune disease getting a correct and timely diagnoses, AARDA conducted a study in 1996.

To conduct the study, we randomly selected five hundred surveys from our survey file and compiled the responses to several questions regarding diagnosis.

First, we looked for women with in of the more serious autoimmune diseases including lupus, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren's syndrome. We selected surveys that indicated the final diagnosis was confirmed by a second opinion and that the second opinion was from a specialist.

The questions we looked at on these surveys were:

1. Number of years before diagnosis was made
2. Number of physicians seen for the symptoms
3. Number told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health.

Results (1996)

Question 1 – average of 5.4 years before correct diagnosis

Question 2 – average of 6.02 physicians seen before correct diagnosis was confirmed

Question 3 – 64% of the women had been told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health

This study was repeated using the same method in 2001

Results (2001)

Question 1 – average of 4 years before correct diagnosis

Question 2 – average of 4.04 physicians seen before correct diagnosis was confirmed

Question 3 – 44.6% of the women had been told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health

This study was repeated using the same method in 2006

Results (2006)

Question 1 – average of 4 years before correct diagnosis

Question 2 – average of 4.08 physicians seen before correct diagnosis was confirmed

Question 3 – 42.6% of the women had been told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health

This study was repeated using the same method in 2013

Results (2013)

Question 1 – average of 3.5 years before correct diagnosis

Question 2 – average of 4.5 physicians seen before correct diagnosis was confirmed

Question 3 – 51% of the women had been told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health

This study was repeated using the same method in 2017, including male respondents

Results (2017)

Question 1 – average of 3 years before correct diagnosis

Question 2 – average of 3.95 physicians seen before correct diagnosis was confirmed

Question 3 – 62.4% of respondents had been told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health

2017 Detailed Results

Total number of respondents 1423		
Gender	Percent	Number of Responses
Female	90.4%	1287
Male	7.2%	102
No Gender Indicated	2.4%	34

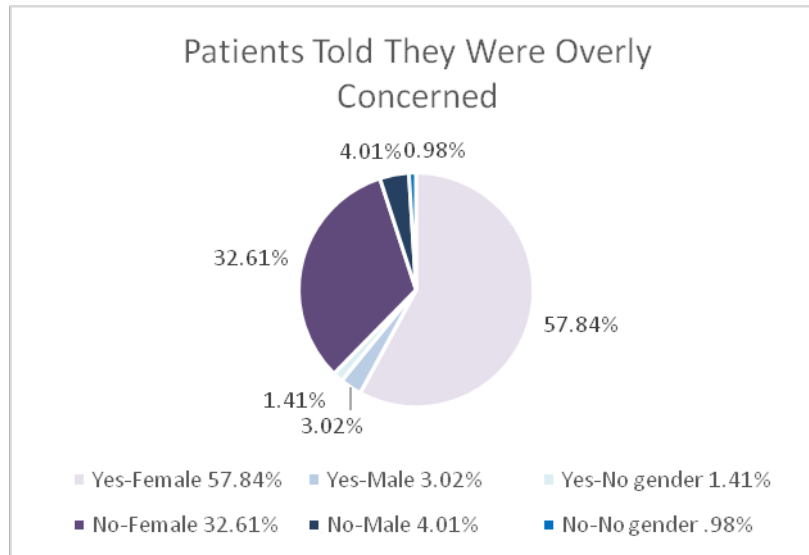
Question Breakdown by Gender

Average Years Before Correct Diagnosis	
Gender	Years
Female	2.55
Male	2.84
No Gender	2.57

Average Number of Physicians Seen Before Correct Diagnosis Was Confirmed	
Gender	Years
Female	4.64
Male	3.00
No Gender	3.00

“Have you been told that you are overly concerned about your health?”

Gender	Yes		No	
	percent of total gender response	number of responses	percent of total gender response	number of responses
Female	63.95%	823	36.05%	464
Male	42.15%	43	55.88%	57
No Gender Indicated	58.82%	20	41.17%	14



Year to year summary

Year	Average amount of years before a correct diagnosis	Average number of physicians seen before correct diagnosis was confirmed	Percent of women who had been told they were chronic complainers or too concerned with their health
1996	5.4	6.02	64%
2001	4	4.04	44.6%
2006	4	4.08	42.6%
2013	3.5	4.5	51%
2017	3	3.96	62.4%

