

ReferReumaPt sensitivity and specificity on identifying and diagnosing RDs - first results



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Introduction

EpiReumaPt is a national epidemiologic, cross-sectional study of rheumatic diseases in the Portuguese population.

EpiReumaPt involves two stepwise encounters:

- First phase: a survey performed by Centro de Estudos e Sondagens de Opinião da Universidade Católica Portuguesa (CESOP-UCP) interviewers at subjects' house, ReferReumaPt. The aims are to characterize the Portuguese population and to identify potential patients with rheumatic diseases;
- second phase - clinical observation performed by a Rheumatologist in a primary care center aimed to confirm rheumatic disease diagnosis using a blinded methodology and to apply validated questionnaires for specific rheumatic diseases.

Objective

To analyse ReferReumaPt questionnaire's sensitivity and specificity on the identification and diagnosis of rheumatic diseases, for the first EpiReumaPt 3 months on the field.

Methods

ReferReumaPt was developed by the EpiReumaPt's research team while CESOP/UCP provided the informatics platform for the first phase.

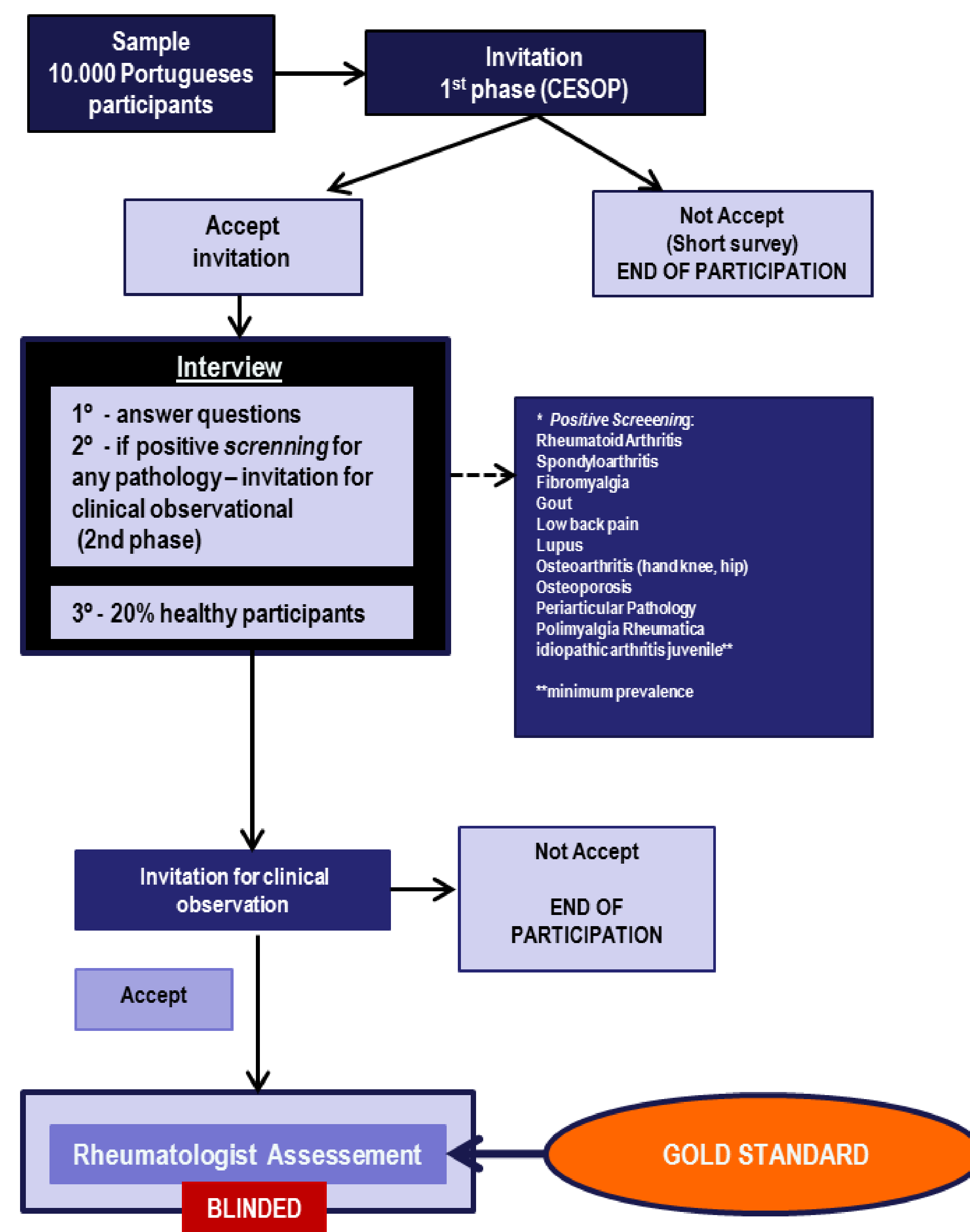
Interviewers used CAPI (computer assisted personal interview) as the methodology for data collection.

The questionnaire collected data on:

- . Demographics data
- . Assessment of quality of life
- . Screening of rheumatic diseases according to international criteria validated:

Pathology	International criteria
Rheumatoid Arthritis	ACR
Osteoarthritis	
Gout	
Fibromyalgia	
Lupus	
Spondyloarthritis	ASAS
Low back pain	Self-report
Polymyalgia Rheumatica	Bird et. al
Osteoporosis	WHO and SPR
Periarticular Pathology	Clinical Manifestations + Diagnostic evaluations

- . General questions, which include among others: nationality, ethnicity, height, weight, marital status, alcohol and coffee consumption, smoking, physical activity and health care.



Results

To analyze sensitivity and specificity of the screening of those individuals examined by the Rheumatologist (n=255) we compared the CESOP's and the Rheumatologist screening. Sensitivity was 0.99 and specificity was 0.19. The positive predictive value (PPV) was 0.74 and the negative predictive value (NPV) was 0.88.

The same process was repeated for specific pathologies:

	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
Rheumatoid Arthritis	0.75	0.39	0.02	0.99
Lupus	1	0.83	0.04	1
Spondyloarthritis	1	0.58	0.02	1
Fibromyalgia	0.85	0.79	0.10	0.99
Osteoarthritis	0.98	0.42	0.44	0.97

Conclusions

ReferReumaPt had high sensitivity regarding total screening, being able to detect positivity among subjects; however specificity was very low and warrants optimization.



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