Crowdsourcing priority setting: A survey of Canadian's priorities and views about using digital media in arthritis prevention and treatment

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Background

- Evidence in arthritis prevention and treatment continues to accumulate, but much of the knowledge is not used by patients and health professionals

- Digital technologies offer flexibility to implement research evidence in clinical practice and patient self-management

Objective

To assess the public's views and priorities in using digital media in arthritis management
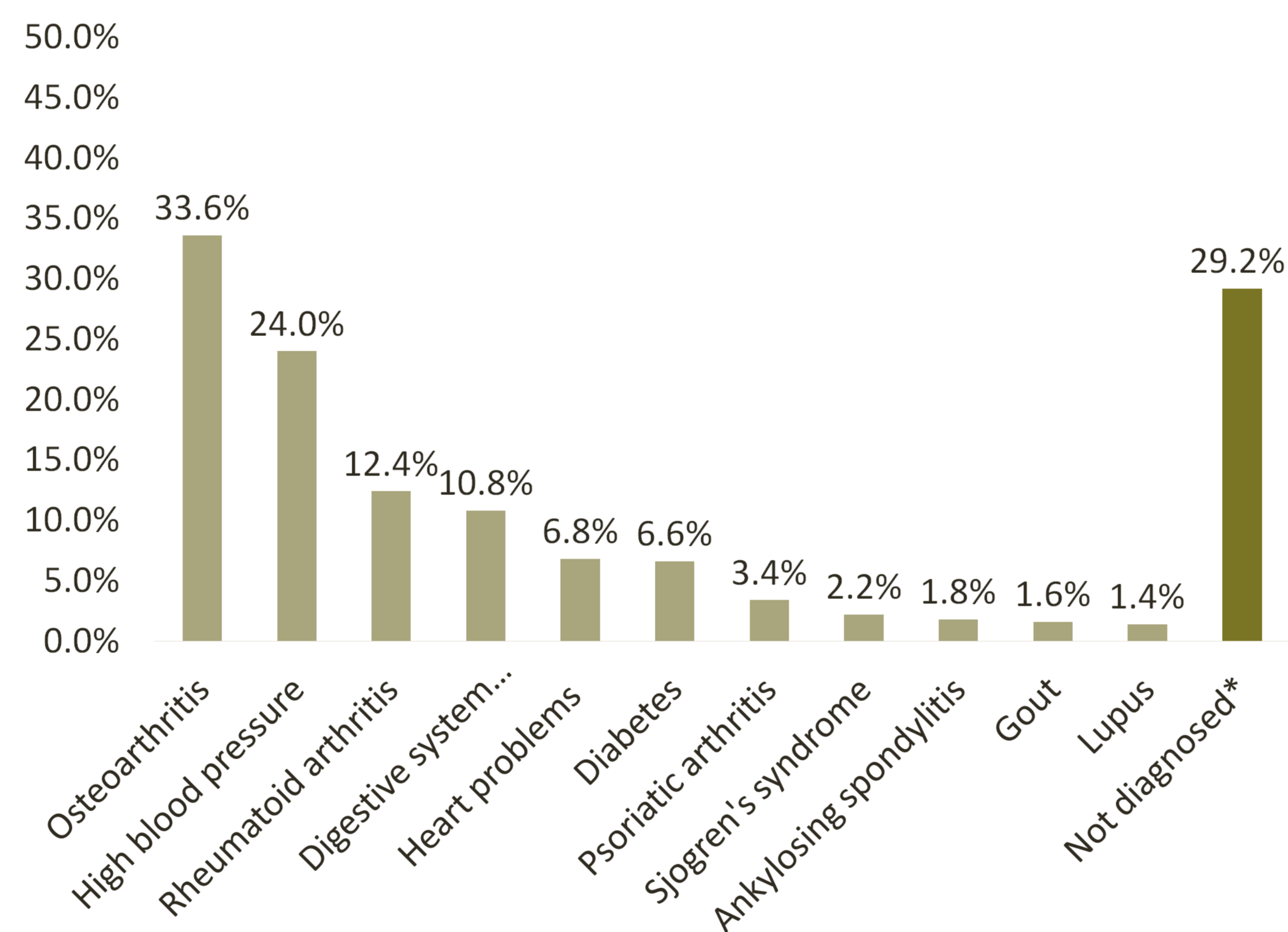
Methods

- A cross-sectional online public survey was developed to address:
  1. Challenges faced by people with arthritis
  2. Individuals' views on how arthritis could be prevented and treated
  3. Opinions on how digital media (e.g., mobile apps, social networking tools and health tracking devices) should be used in arthritis management

- The survey invitation was sent to members of participating consumer organizations

- Open-ended questions were used to elicit opinions from the public (English & French)

- Preliminary codes were developed with the first 200 responses. They were reviewed, revised, and applied to all responses.

Results

668 attempted the English version of the survey between July and August 2014 across Canada. **500** provided valid responses

Sample Characteristics (n = 500)

Gender, female	383 (76.6%)
Living in city with at least one hospital	426 (85.2%)
At least 55 years of age	364 (72.8%)
Living in British Columbia	207 (41.4%)
Living in Ontario	214 (42.8%)
Employment Status	
Retired	233 (46.6%)
Working part time	137 (27.4%)
Working full time	57 (11.4%)

Diagnosis (n = 500)

Osteoarthritis 33.6%, High blood pressure 24.0%, Rheumatoid arthritis 12.4%, Digestive system... 10.8%, Heart problems 6.8%, Diabetes 6.6%, Psoriatic arthritis 3.4%, Sjogren's syndrome 2.2%, Ankylosing spondylitis 1.8%, Gout 1.6%, Lupus 1.4%, Not diagnosed* 29.2%

*No diagnosis but caregiver of someone with chronic condition

What did consumers think about...

...CHALLENGES with arthritis?

Respondents identified **pain** (48.0%), **loss of mobility** (35.6%), and **loss of functional independence** (34.6%) as main challenges faced by people with arthritis.

...PREVENTION of arthritis?

Exercise (33.8%), **diet** (21.0%) and **healthy body weight** (13.6%) were the most mentioned prevention strategies
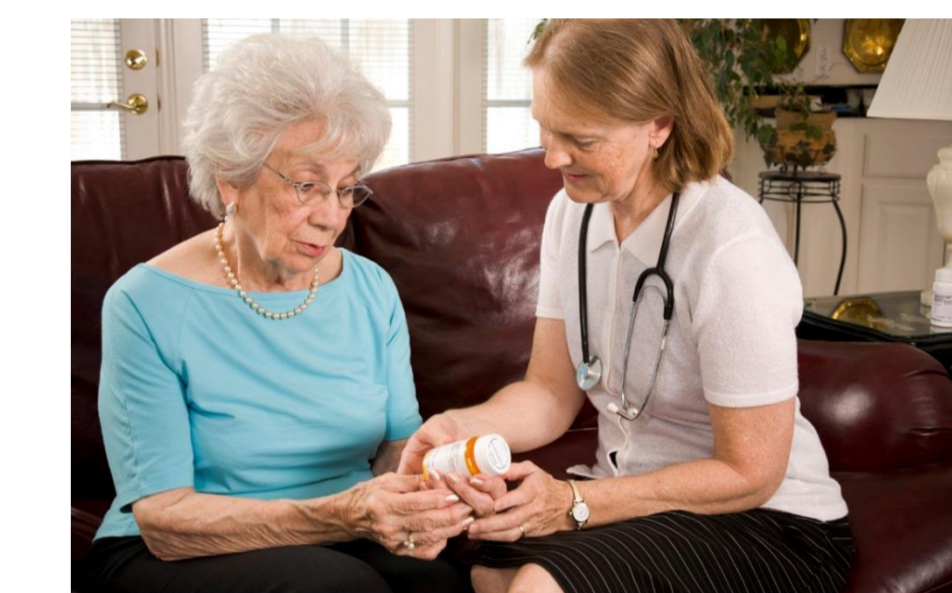
11.6% did not know how it could be prevented

...TREATMENT for arthritis?

Physical Activity (44.0%)

Medication (37.8%)

Physical Therapy (15.2%)

Don't know/No Response (24.2%)

...Roles of DIGITAL MEDIA for managing arthritis?

22.4% felt that it could **provide educational material, monitor exercise** (15.4%), and **track symptoms** (7.8%)

48.6% were **unable to name a role** or felt that there was no role

Partner Organizations

Arthritis Consumer Experts | JointHealth | CAPP·ACPP Canadian Association of Psoriasis Patients / Association canadienne des patients atteints de psoriasis

Conclusion

- Through crowdsourcing, we identified several areas where the public felt digital media should be used in arthritis management.
- This survey also uncovered gaps in the awareness of arthritis prevention and treatment, and the perceived role of digital media.
- These areas present opportunities for future knowledge translation endeavours.

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