

The physician and rheumatoid arthritis patient population

The physiatrists had the largest mean average (4.44) of new cases during the thirty-day period. The orthopedic surgeons reported a mean average of 3.40 new cases, the internists 2.61, the general practitioners 2.59, and the surgeons 2.51 (Fig. 4). Although the *mean* average of new cases for all physicians was 2.55, the *median* average was 1.00, i.e., 50% of the physicians had more than one new patient and 50% had less than one.

The physiatrists also had the largest mean average (9.78) of follow-up cases of rheumatoid arthritis during the thirty-day period. The internists had a mean average of 9.11 such cases, the orthopedic surgeons 8.03, the general practitioners 7.47, and the surgeons 5.79 (Fig. 4). Although the *mean* average of follow-up cases for all physicians was 7.47, the *median* average was 4.00, i.e., 50% had more than four follow-up cases and 50% had less than four.

The questionnaire and its validity

The questionnaire on rheumatoid arthritis (Fig. 5) was included in all copies of the March 14, 1966, issue of *Modern Medicine*. Four weeks after release

Fig. 5. Doctors were asked these questions:

1. Do you attend patients with rheumatoid arthritis?
Yes _____ No _____
2. How many patients have you seen for the first time with rheumatoid arthritis during the past 30 days? _____
(number)
3. How many patients have you seen on subsequent visits for rheumatoid arthritis during the past 30 days? _____
(number)
4. How did you treat the patients you saw during the past 30 days?
5. What results have you experienced over the past year with your treatment of rheumatoid arthritis? (Estimate by percentage of cases.)