

SCQM-AI Assistant – Quick Start Guide

1. Introduction

The SCQM AI Assistant on the SCQM website uses Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), an AI approach that retrieves relevant documents and generates natural-language answers. It draws exclusively on SCQM sources (publications and approved documents) – not on the open internet or other databases.

2. Quick start (three steps)

1. Visit the SCQM website (www.scqm.ch), where you will find the AI Assistant (in the menu bar).



2. Choose between **SCQM Publications** (research) or **About SCQM** (general information about the organisation/participation).
3. Enter your question in the chat field and click on the **"send"** button.
4. To search for a specific document or set of documents in research mode, click the **"Filter"** button, set your filters, and then click **"Filter"** again to start the search.

3. Language

Click on the language selection at the top of the SCQM website to select the language. The AI assistant will respond in the language of the website.

DE EN FR IT



4. Functions

4.1. Mode: SCQM publications / About SCQM

Before asking your question, select the appropriate mode, **SCQM Publications** (research) or **About SCQM** (general information about the organisation/participation), so that the AI assistant searches the appropriate document collection.

4.1.1. Sample questions

Below are two sample questions. To copy an answer, highlight the text, right click and select 'Copy'.

- **SCQM Publications (Research)**

Question: What does research with SCQM data say about the effect of smoking on patients with rheumatic diseases?

[SCQM Publications](#)
[About SCQM](#)

For general information about the SCQM Foundation, including information about services for patients, healthcare professionals, healthcare institutions, researchers and partners, please select the option 'About SCQM'. For summaries or information on research projects conducted with SCQM data, please select the option 'SCQM Publications'. You can use the 'Search' button to filter or search the SCQM publications using specific keywords.

What does research with SCQM data say about the effect of smoking on patients with rheumatic diseases?

Research using SCQM data has explored the impact of smoking on patients with rheumatic diseases, particularly focusing on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA):

1. **Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA):**

- The study titled "Cigarette smoking and radiographic progression in rheumatoid arthritis" by Finckh A., Dehler S., Costenbader K. H., and Gabay C. (2007) found that radiographic joint damage progressed at an equivalent rate in smokers and non-smokers. Interestingly, a significant trend was observed for reduced radiographic progression among heavy smokers, suggesting that cigarette smoke does not accelerate RA disease progression.

Chat with the SCQM foundation

Filter
New chat

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- **About SCQM (organisation/participation)**

Question: How can I participate in SCQM as a patient?

[SCQM Publications](#)
[About SCQM](#)

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How can I participate in SCQM as a patient?

To participate in the SCQM as a patient, you need to follow these steps:

- Contact the SCQM Office:** Your healthcare institution or practice will need to register with the SCQM, and you will be given access to the patient registry.
- Provide Informed Consent:** You will need to sign an informed consent form to allow your health-related data to be used for quality management and research purposes. This includes data collected during your routine clinical visits.
- Data Entry and Monitoring:** Your healthcare provider will enter your clinical data into the SCQM database. You may

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4.2. Chat input & real-time replies

Enter your questions in natural language. The answers will be displayed immediately as soon as they are generated. While the results are loading, status messages such as "Searching for relevant documents..." will be displayed.

4.3. Filter (SCQM publications)

Clicking on 'Filter' opens the **"Filter research articles"** dialogue box and searches the available publications based on the field inputs.

The screenshot shows the SCQM Publications interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'SCQM Publications' (active) and 'About SCQM'. Below the tabs, a paragraph explains the purpose of the interface. A modal dialog box titled 'Filter Research Articles' is open in the center. It contains five input fields: 'Publication Year (from)', 'Publication Year (to)', 'Article Title', 'Authors', and 'Abstract Keywords'. The 'Abstract Keywords' field has a plus sign icon to its right. At the bottom of the dialog is a blue 'Filter' button. Below the dialog, a chat input area is visible with a 'Filter' button and a 'New chat' button. At the very bottom, a disclaimer states: 'The content provided by the SCQM A.I. Assistant is for general information and educational purposes only. It does not constitute medical advice and is not intended as a substitute to a professional diagnosis or treatment by a qualified medical professional.'

Fields in the filter field

- **Publication year (from)** – earliest year (numbers only). Empty/invalid→ No lower limit. Use 4-digit years (e.g. 2015).
- **Publication year (to)** – latest year (numbers only). Blank/invalid→ , no upper limit. Use a year ≥ "from" to narrow down the results.
- **Article title** – Free text to match title words. Leave blank to ignore.
- **Authors** – Free text to match author names or fragments. Leave blank to ignore.
- **Abstract keywords**

- **Same line = AND search**
Enter multiple keywords on the same line to find manuscripts that contain **all** of these terms.
Example: If you enter RA axSpA, only manuscripts containing **both** RA **and** axSpA will be displayed.
- **Separate lines (with +) = OR search**
Add each keyword separately using the "+" button to find manuscripts that contain **any** of these terms.
Example: If you add RA using the "+" button and then add axSpA using the "+" button, manuscripts containing **either** RA **or** axSpA will be displayed.

4.4. Suggested Readings

Click on **"View suggested readings"** at the end of an answer to review publications that informed the AI Assistant's response (these are not formal references, but relevant background materials). Clicking on the publications will open the article online.

[SCQM Publications](#)
[About SCQM](#)

Suggested Readings

For general information about the SCQM Foundation, including information about services for patients, healthcare professionals, health partners, please select the option 'About SCQM'. For summaries or information on research projects conducted with SCQM data, please see 'You can use the 'Search' button to filter or search the SCQM publications using specific keywords.

both smokers and non-smokers. Interestingly, a significant trend was observed where heavy smokers reduced radiographic progression and generally more favorable functional scores compared to moderate smokers, suggesting that cigarette smoke does not accelerate RA disease progression

2. **Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA):**

- The study "Impaired response to treatment with tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors in smoke spondyloarthritis" by Ciurea, Scherer & Finckh et al. (2016) demonstrated that current smokers with a significantly impaired response to treatment with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi). Smokers had smaller reductions in disease activity scores and were less likely to achieve significant improvement to non-smokers. This suggests that smoking negatively affects treatment outcomes in axSpA.

Overall, SCQM data indicates that while smoking may not significantly affect the progression of joint damage, it is associated with an impaired response to treatment in axSpA.

View suggested readings

Chat with the SCQM foundation

Filter

New chat

Finckh A., Dehler S., Costenbader K. H., Gabay C., (2007), *Cigarette smoking and radiographic progression in rheumatoid arthritis*, Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases.

Ciurea, Scherer & Finckh et al., (2016), *Impaired response to treatment with tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors in smokers with axial spondyloarthritis*, Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases.

Micheroli Raphael, Kissling Seraphina, Bürki Kristina, Exer Pascale, Bräm René, Nissen Michael J., Möller Burkhard, Andor Michael, Distler Oliver, Scherer Almut, Ciurea Adrian, (2022), *Sacroiliac joint radiographic progression in axial spondyloarthritis is retarded by the therapeutic use of TNF inhibitors: 12-year data from the SCQM registry*, RMD Open.

Download

Close

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4.5. New chat / Delete history

"New chat" deletes the conversation. The chat is also automatically deleted when you close/exit it.

5. Privacy and disclaimer

Each session uses a temporary session ID. The AI assistant only provides informative summaries and **does not offer** medical advice – see also the "Disclaimer" at the end of the chat.

6. One-line instructions for best results

Be specific: Specify the condition, treatment, time period or keywords (e.g. "smoking AND disease activity, 2015–2022"). Use **SCQM publications** for research and **"About SCQM"** for general questions about the organisation/participation.