

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

### Clinician Questionnaire

#### Section 1: Demographic Items

**Q1: Please indicate your gender:**

Q1a: male

Q1b: female

Q1c: I prefer not to declare.

**Q2: Please indicate your age:**

**Q3: Please indicate if you are:**

Q3a: specialist/resident in orthopedics and traumatology

Q3b: specialist/resident in anesthesiology

Q3c: specialist/resident in rheumatology

Q3d: specialist/resident in physical medicine and rehabilitation

**Q4: Please indicate how many years of medical practice did you spend as a specialist:**

Q4a: <5 years

Q4b: 5–10 years

Q4c: 10–20 years

Q4d: >20 years

**Q5: Please indicate your year of residency:**

Q5a: first

Q5a: second

Q5a: third

Q5a: fourth

Q5a: fifth

**Q6: Please indicate your working geographical area:**

Q6a: Northern Italy

Q6b: Central

Q6c: Southern Italy (including islands, namely Sicily and Sardinia)

**Q7: Please indicate the healthcare facility you are currently working for:**

Q7a: Outpatient territorial ambulatory within the local health authority

Q7b: Public hospital

Q7c: Hospital within the local health authority

Q7d: University hospital

Q7e: Not accredited clinics

Q7f: IRCCS private

Q7g: IRCCS public

Q7h: Accredited private hospital

Q7i: Other

**Q8: Please indicate how many patients with osteoarthritis (OA) you see monthly:**

**Q9: With reference to the OA patients you encounter, please indicate the percentage of patients based on the affected joint:**

Q9a: knee

Q9b: hip

Q9c: lumbar

Q9d: cervical

Q9e: hand/wrist

Q9f: ankle

Q9g: poli-arthritis

Q9h: other

**Q10: Please indicate how many patients with knee OA you see monthly:**

Section 2: Clinical profile of the patients encountered by the participant clinicians in their daily practice.

**Q11: Which are the main causes of knee OA in the patients you have encountered?**

Q11a: primary degenerative OA

Q11b: post-traumatic (including surgery)

Q11c: secondary to systemic conditions (gout, arthritis)

Q11d: other

**Q12: When the patient refers to you for the first time, which Kellgren-Lawrence grade is more frequently observed?**

Q12a: I

Q12b: II

Q12c: III

Q12d: IV

**Q13: How many patients with knee OA refer to you with a previous diagnosis?**

**Q14: In the case of patients with a prior diagnosis, who was the physician making the first diagnosis?**

Q14a: general practitioner

Q14b: orthopedics

Q14c: rheumatologist

Q14d: physiatrist

Q14e: pain therapist

Q14f: radiologist

Q14g: other

**Q15: Why does a patient with a prior diagnosis of knee OA refer to you? Please indicate for each cause a percentage:**

Q15a: pain

Q15b: functional disability

Q15c: inflammation

Q15d: other

**Q16: Please indicate the proportion of patients suffering from knee OA who present moderate-to-severe pain:**

**Q17: The moderate-to-severe pain associated with knee OA is present:**

Q17a: continuously

Q17b: mostly upon load but not at rest

Q17c: both

Q17d: other

**Q18: On average, how much time elapses between the diagnosis of pain associated with knee OA and the start of analgesic therapy?**

Q18a: Immediately

Q18b: <1 month

Q18c: 1–3 months

Q18d: 3–6 months

Q18e: 3–12 months

Q18f: >12 months

**Q19: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed non-pharmacological therapy/topical NSAIDs?**

Q19a: none

Q19b: <10%

Q19c: 10–25%

Q19d: 25–50%

Q19e: 50–75%

Q19f: >75%

**Q20: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed paracetamol/oral NSAIDs/COXIB?**

Q20a: none

Q20b: <10%

Q20c: 10–25%

Q20d: 25–50%

Q20e: 50–75%

Q20f: >75%

**Q21: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed weak/strong opioids?**

Q21a: none

Q21b: <10%

Q21c: 10–25%

Q21d: 25–50%

Q21e: 50–75%

Q21f: >75%

**Q22: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed SYSADOA?**

Q22a: none

Q22b: <10%

Q22c: 10–25%

Q22d: 25–50%

Q22e: 50–75%

Q22f: >75%

**Q23: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed intra-articular hyaluronic acid?**

Q23a: none

Q23b: <10%

Q23c: 10–25%

Q23d: 25–50%

Q23e: 50–75%

Q23f: >75%

**Q24: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed intra-articular corticosteroids?**

Q24a: none

Q24b: <10%

Q24c: 10–25%

Q24d: 25–50%

Q24e: 50–75%

Q24f: >75%

**Q25: Among the patients with previously diagnosed knee OA and moderate-to-severe pain you have encountered monthly, how many have been prescribed intra-articular platelet-rich plasma/stem cells?**

Q25a: none

Q25b: <10%

Q25c: 10–25%

Q25d: 25–50%

Q25e: 50–75%

Q25f: >75%

Section 3: Prescribing habits and degree of satisfaction of clinicians when managing moderate-to-severe pain associated with knee OA

**Q26: Which interventions do you more frequently employ to manage moderate-to-severe pain associated with knee OA (please indicate the three most frequent):**

Q26a: non-pharmacological therapy

Q26b: topical NSAIDs  
Q26c: SYSADOA  
Q26d: oral NSAIDs/paracetamol  
Q26e: COXIB  
Q26f: weak opioids  
Q26g: strong opioids  
Q26h: intra-articular hyaluronic acid  
Q26i: intra-articular corticosteroids  
Q26l: intra-articular platelet-rich plasma/stem cells

**Q27: Please indicate your degree of satisfaction with the pain relief achieved by topical NSAIDs/paracetamol/SYSADOA in the treatment of patients with moderate-to-severe pain associated with knee OA:**

Q27a: very unsatisfied  
Q27b: unsatisfied  
Q27c: neutral  
Q27d: satisfied  
Q27e: very satisfied

**Q28: Please indicate your degree of satisfaction with the pain relief achieved by oral NSAIDs, COXIB, and weak and strong opioids in the treatment of patients with moderate-to-severe pain associated with knee OA:**

Q28a: very unsatisfied  
Q28b: unsatisfied  
Q28c: neutral  
Q28d: satisfied  
Q28e: very satisfied

**Q29: Please indicate your degree of satisfaction with the pain relief achieved by intra-articular hyaluronic acid, intra-articular corticosteroids, and intra-articular platelet-rich plasma/stem cells in the treatment of patients with moderate-to-severe pain associated with knee OA:**

Q29a: very unsatisfied  
Q29b: unsatisfied  
Q29c: neutral  
Q29d: satisfied  
Q29e: very satisfied

**Q30: How much do patient expectations matter in your therapeutic choice when dealing with the pain associated with knee OA?**

Q30a: nothing  
Q30b: little  
Q30c: enough  
Q30d: very much

Patient Questionnaire

Section 1: Demographic Items

**Q1: Please indicate your gender:**

Q1a: male

Q1b: female

Q1c: I prefer not to declare.

**Q2: Please indicate your age:**

**Q3: Please indicate your living area:**

Q3a: Northern Italy

Q3b: Central

Q3c: Southern Italy (including islands, namely Sicily and Sardinia)

**Q4: Please indicate your membership:**

Q4a: ANMAR

Q4b: APMARR

Section 2: Patient clinical profile

**Q5: How long have you been suffering from osteoarthritis (OA)?**

Q5a: <6 months

Q5b: 6–12 months

Q5c: 1–3 years

Q5d: 3–5 years

Q5e: >5 years

**Q6: Please indicate which joints are affected from OA:**

Q6a: knee

Q6b: hip

Q6c: cervical

Q6d: lumbar

Q6e: shoulder

Q6f: elbow

Q6g: ankle

Q6h: hand/wrist

**Q7: Please indicate if you are suffering from knee OA at one or both knees:**

Q7a: one knee

Q7b: both knees

**Q8: Beyond knee OA, are you suffering from other diseases?**

Q8a: no

Q8b: hypertension

Q8c: diabetes

Q8d: cardiovascular diseases

Q8e: obesity

Q8f: other (please specify)

**Q9: Please rate how much each of the following symptoms impact your daily life:**

	Score 0 (no impact)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score 10 (burdensome)
Pain											
Joint stiffness											
Mobility issues											
Tiredness											
Joint swelling											
Loss of flexibility											
Sleep disorders											
Joint deformity											
Crackling knee (crepitus)											

**Q10: Please rate how much pain impacts the following activities:**

	Score 0 (no impact)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score 10 (burdensome)
Physical activity											
Working activity											
Social activities											
Emotion/psychological dimension											

Q11: Please indicate the intensity of your pain on a scale of 0–10:

Section 3: Patient journey: from diagnosis to therapy

**Q12: Please indicate your age at first diagnosis of knee OA:**

**Q13: Please indicate which specialist made the first knee OA diagnosis:**

Q13a: general practitioner

Q13b: orthopedics

Q13c: rheumatologist

Q13d: physiatrist

Q13e: pain therapist

Q13f: radiologist

Q13g: other (please specify)

**Q14: Please indicate how much time elapses between the first visit to the confirmed diagnosis:**

Q14a: immediately

Q14b: <1 month

Q14c: 1–3 months

Q14d: 3–6 months

Q14e: >6 months

**Q15: Please indicate by which means knee OA diagnosis was made:**

Q15a: X-rays

Q15b: magnetic resonance

Q15c: echography

Q15d: physician objective examination

Q15e: I do not remember

**Q16: When you received your first diagnosis of knee OA, did you receive all the necessary information regarding the disease, lifestyle, therapies, and so on?**

Q16a: Yes

Q16b: No

Q16c: I do not remember

**Q17: Please indicate the number of physicians you have encountered before receiving the knee OA diagnosis:**

**Q18: On average, how much time elapses between diagnosis of pain associated with knee OA and your first prescription of analgesic medications?**

Q18a: Immediately

Q18b: <1 month

Q18c: 1–3 months

Q18d: 3–6 months

Q18e: 3–12 months

Q18f: >12 months

**Q19: During your treatment journey, how much did you feel listened to and involved in the choice of therapy to manage pain associated with knee OA?**

Q19a: not at all

Q19b: little

Q19c: enough

Q19d: very much

**Q20: Please indicate the most relevant gaps you have dealt with during your patient journey:**

Section 4: Prescribed analgesic medications and patient degree of satisfaction

**Q21: Please indicate which of the following treatments you are currently taking to manage the pain associated with knee OA:**

Q21a: non-pharmacological therapy

Q21b: topical NSAIDs

Q21c: paracetamol

Q21d: oral NSAIDs

Q21e: opioids

Q21f: intra-articular hyaluronan

Q21g: intra-articular corticosteroids

Q21h: currently, I am not treating the pain

Q21i: other (please specify)

**Q22: Please indicate the degree of satisfaction with the prescribed analgesic therapy:**

Q22a: not at all

Q22b: little

Q22c: enough

Q22d: very much

Q22e: currently, I am not treating the pain

**Q23: If you consider yourself unsatisfied, please indicate the reason:**