Supplementary material for Ambrosino P, et al. Non-invasive assessment of arterial stiffness in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: A systematic review and meta-analysis of literature studies, *Annals of Medicine*, 2015;47:457–67.

Supplementary Table I. Devices and methods for pulse-wave velocity (PWV) and augmentation index (AIx) assessment used in included studies.

Study	Outcome	Method	Devices
Arosio, 2007* (20)	carotid-radial PWV	NA	NA
Avalos, 2007 (21)	carotid-radial PWV	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Becetti, 2015 (29)	AIx@75	Tonometric	■ Millar pressure tonometer (PWV Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Čypienė, 2006 (22)	carotid-radial PWV AIx@75	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Čypienė, 2007 (30)	carotid-radial PWV AIx	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Čypienė, 2010 (31)	carotid-radial PWV AIx@75	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Fan, 2014 (32)	brachial-ankle PWV	–	■ VP-1000 Plus (Colin, Komaki, Japan)
Holmes, 2010 (33)	carotid-femoral PWV	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Inaba, 2007 (34)	brachial-ankle PWV	–	■ BP-203RPE (Colin, Komaki, Japan)
Klocke, 2003 (35)	AIx	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Kocabay 2012 (36)	carotid-femoral PWV	Piezoelectronic	■ Millar pressure tonometer (PWV Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Li, 2013 (37)	brachial-ankle PWV	–	■ Complior (Createch Industrie, Garges les Goneses, France)
Lo Gullo, 2014 (38)	AIx	Ultrasonographic	■ TY-306 pressure sensitive transducer (Fukuda, Tokyo, Japan)
Mäki-Petäjä, 2006 (23)	carotid-femoral PWV AIx	Tonometric	■ VP-2000 (Colin, Komaki, Japan)
Mäki-Petäjä, 2007 (39)	carotid-femoral PWV	Tonometric	■ eTRACKING system, ALOKA Prosound α-10 (Mitaka-shi, Tokyo, Japan)
Pieringer, 2009 (40)	AIx@75	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Pieringer, 2010 (a) (41)	carotid-radial PWV	Tonometric	■ SPC-301 micro-manometer (Millar Instruments, Houston, TX, USA)
Pieringer, 2010 (b) (42)	AIx@75	Tonometric	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Pieringer, 2012 (43)	carotid-radial PWV AIx@75	Tonometric	■ SPC-301 micro-manometer (Millar Instruments, Houston, TX, USA)
Protogerou, 2011 (44)	carotid-femoral PWV	Piezoelectronic	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Provan, 2011 (45)	carotid-femoral PWV	NA	■ SPC-301 micro-manometer (Millar Instruments, Houston, TX, USA)
Rebrov, 2008* (46)	carotid-femoral PWV AIx	NA	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Soltész, 2009 (47)	AIx	Oscillometric	■ SPC-301 micro-manometer (Millar Instruments, Houston, TX, USA)
Stamatelopoulos, 2009 (48)	carotid-femoral PWV	Piezoelectronic	■ SphygmoCor system (AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia)
Turkyilmaz, 2013 (49)	carotid-femoral PWV	Tonometric	■ Complior (Artech Medical, Pantin, France)
			■ SPC-301 micro-manometer (Millar Instruments, Houston, TX, USA)

AIx: augmentation index; AIx@75: augmentation index normalized to a 75 beats/minute heart rate; NA: not available.

*only abstract available.

Supplementary Table 2. Quality of studies assessment (Newcastle-Ottawa scale) for case-control studies.

Study	Definition of cases	Representativeness of cases	Selection of controls	Definition of controls	Comparability of cases and controls	Ascertainment of exposure	Same method of ascertainment	Non-response rate	Quality
Arosio, 2007* (20)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	NA
Avalos, 2007 (21)	*	*	*	*	–	*	*	*	7
Becetti, 2015 (29)	*	*	*	*	–	*	*	*	7
Čypienė, 2006 (22)	*	–	*	–	–	*	*	*	5
Čypienė, 2007 (30)	*	*	–	–	*	*	*	*	6
Čypienė, 2010 (31)	*	–	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Fan, 2014 (32)	*	–	–	*	–	*	*	*	5
Holmes, 2010 (33)	*	–	*	*	–	*	*	*	6
Inaba, 2007 (34)	*	–	*	*	–	*	*	*	6
Klocke, 2003 (35)	*	–	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Kocabay 2012 (36)	–	–	–	*	*	*	*	*	5
Li, 2013 (37)	*	–	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Lo Gullo, 2014 (38)	*	–	*	–	*	*	*	*	6
Mäki-Petäjä, 2006 (23)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Mäki-Petäjä, 2007(39)	*	–	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Pieringer, 2009 (40)	*	–	–	*	*	*	*	*	6
Pieringer, 2010 (a) (41)	*	–	–	*	*	*	*	*	5
Pieringer, 2010(b) (42)	*	–	–	*	–	*	*	*	5
Pieringer, 2012 (43)	*	*	–	*	–	*	*	*	6
Protogerou, 2011 (44)	–	*	–	*	–	*	*	*	5
Provan, 2011 (45)	*	–	*	–	–	*	*	*	5
Rebrov, 2008* (46)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	NA
Soltész, 2009 (47)	–	–	–	*	–	*	*	*	4
Stamatelopoulos, 2009 (48)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Turkyilmaz, 2013 (49)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8

NA: not assessed.

*only abstract available.

Supplementary Figure 1. Prisma Flow Diagram *2 studies without control group, 4 studies with data expressed as median (interquartile range).

Supplementary Figure 2. Funnel plots of effect size versus standard error for studies evaluating carotid-femoral pulse-wave velocity (Panel A), carotid-radial pulse-wave velocity (Panel B), and brachial-ankle pulse-wave velocity (Panel C).

Supplementary Figure 3. Funnel plots of effect size versus standard error for studies evaluating augmentation index (Panel A) and augmentation index normalized to a 75 beats/minute heart rate (Panel B).